

STARS AND STRIPES®

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Carlos Beltran

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SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2004

Attacks alarm U.S. military



Skill displayed by insurgents in Baqouba surprises GIs Page 3

■ **U.S. targets Fallujah for
third time in a week**

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PHOTOS BY ANDREA BRUCE WOODALL/Washington Post

Above: A U.S. soldier walks through the wreckage of a building hit by a U.S. airstrike in Baqouba, Iraq. Insurgents fighting in large squads took over several sites but were driven out of the battered city center. Top: After more than 15 hours of fighting, Staff Sgt. Todd Ferguson rests while a fellow soldier is treated for heat exhaustion. Baqouba, which sits amid groves of date palms and scorched plains 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, has troubled U.S. forces throughout the occupation.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Saudi terror amnesty: Mosque preachers and relatives of militants joined the government's call Friday for Islamic terrorists to surrender under a limited amnesty offered by King Fahd.

"This is a blessing for which you should thank God and comply with," the Mufti of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Abdel Aziz bin al-Sheik, said in the Friday prayers sermon in the main mosque of the capital.

German Nazi conviction: A German federal court said Friday it has voided the two-year-old murder conviction of a former Nazi SS major, age 95, who was found guilty in a World War II massacre of Italian prisoners.

Ruling on Friedrich Engel's appeal, the Federal Court of Justice said the case had been taken up "incomprehensibly late" and closed legal proceedings. It argued that, given Engel's age, it was no longer practically possible to stage a retrial that would clear up doubts about the 2002 verdict.

Cuban crackdown: A writer whose published diary entries offered a glimpse of life behind bars in Cuba has been released from prison, becoming the sixth of the 75 dissidents jailed last year in a major crackdown to be freed.

Manuel Vazquez Portal, 52, was released late Wednesday from Boniato Prison in the eastern city of Santiago. He then traveled to Havana, where he spoke with reporters on Thursday.

Frozen embryos battle: The Court of Appeal in London ruled Friday that a woman left infertile following cancer treatment cannot sue frozen embryos she created with her former partner.

However, Lord Justice Thorpe ordered that the embryos should not be destroyed until Natalie Evans, 32, decides whether to appeal the court's decision.

Thorpe's ruling is the second blow to the legal challenge by Evans against the Human Fertilization and Embryology Act, which requires the destruction of embryos unless both parties consent to use.

Protests against United States: Carrying signs reading "Bush Is The World's Biggest Liar," nearly 100 protesters marched to the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok to urge the United States to withdraw its troops from Iraq.

The alliance of a dozen activist groups, dubbed Solidarity for World Peace, said the United States "has no right to interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq and to maintain troops in Iraq any longer," according to a letter the protesters delivered to an embassy official.

Thailand has about 400 soldiers providing humanitarian assistance in Iraq.

Russia attacks: The top security official in the southern Russian republic of Ingushetia denied Friday that security services had acted illegally when they swept into camps housing Chechen refugees to search for alleged participants in a nighttime attack this week that killed at least 98 people.

Sen. Koryakova, the chair of a regional branch of the Federal Security Service, said the search operations "are being conducted in compliance with the law and under the supervision of the prosecution authorities," the Interfax news agency reported.

Marcos documentary: The widow of dictator Ferdinand Marcos won a temporary court order to keep a documentary about her out of theaters in the Philippines after



Ghost ships: The Santa Cruz, left, and the American Bunker, right, are shown at the James River "Ghost Fleet" in Newport News, Va. Those two ships, along with the Mormacmon, will leave the "Ghost Fleet" this summer to be scrapped at Marine Metals of Brownsville, Texas. The U.S. Maritime Administration hopes to award contracts soon to dismantle seven more, the agency's top official said.

she tearfully protested that the film shows her in a bad light.

Imelda Marcos, who became a symbol of the extravagance of dictatorship with her enormous shoe collection, petitioned the Makati Regional Trial Court in Manila last week to ban the award-winning documentary "Imelda."

SARS vacciner: An experimental nasal immunization for the respiratory illness SARS has proved effective in a test on monkeys and suggests a vaccine for humans might be most effectively delivered through the nose.

A study published Friday in *The Lancet* medical journal found that four African green monkeys given a single dose of the vaccine and then infected four weeks later with the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome virus developed neutralizing antibodies and showed no sign of the disease in their respiratory tracts.



Mark Geragos, right, Scott Peterson's defense attorney, returns from lunch to the San Mateo County Courthouse in Redwood City, Calif., on Thursday afternoon.

Nation

Scott Peterson trial: The attorney for Scott Peterson got a police detective to concede he intentionally failed to mention a witness who could help clear the former fertilizer salesman of killing his pregnant wife.

Mark Geragos used the admission Thursday by Detective Allen Brochini to support his contention that the investigation was a sloppily executed effort to implicate Peterson, regardless of the evidence.

The witness is a woman who recalled seeing Laci Peterson at the warehouse where her husband stored his small boat.

Risky spacewalk: An apparent oxygen leak ended an unusually risky spacewalk just 14 minutes after it began, and sent the international space station's two astronauts rushing back inside to safety.

Flight controllers said the spacewalk — to repair a fried circuit breaker — would not be attempted again until Tuesday at the earliest.

Astronaut Mike Fincke had just floated outside early Thursday evening, with cosmonaut Gennady Padalka close on his heels, when the chilling words came from Mission Control: "You need to return. Something is not right."

BTK strangler: Investigators said Thursday that letters sent to police and a television station in Wichita, Kan., appear to be the latest communications from a serial killer who resurfaced this year after more than two decades of silence.

Wichita police received a letter earlier this month describing the 1974 strangulation of four family members — the earliest of eight deaths for which the killer known as the BTK strangler has claimed responsibility.

Martha Stewart trial: The government urged a federal judge in New York on Thursday to reject Martha Stewart's latest bid for a new trial based on charges that a Secret Service ink expert lied on the witness stand.

Larry Stewart, who is no relation to Martha Stewart, testified about ink analysis of a worksheet prepared by Baccanovic that reflected stocks in Martha Stewart's portfolio. Prosecutors say he lied by saying he took part in the ink testing.

Box cutter stunt: A university student who says he hid box cutters on airplanes to expose weaknesses in security was sentenced in Baltimore on Thursday to two years of supervised probation and fined \$500.

Nathaniel Heatwole also must serve 100 hours of community service and reimburse his parents for up to \$500 in legal expenses.

Nader challenge: Two Arizona voters on Wednesday filed the first Democratic challenge to independent Ralph Nader's bid to get on a state's November presidential ballot.

The Democrats' lawsuit alleged that more than 70 percent of the 21,500 petition signatures filed on behalf of Nader are invalid. Nader needs 44,694 valid signatures to get on the Arizona ballot.

Stories and photos from wire reports

Insurgents' strength, skill alarm U.S. GIs

BY SCOTT WILSON

The Washington Post

BAQUBA, Iraq — The 1st Infantry Division soldiers who walked off the battlefield Thursday, exhausted by the frantic pace of combat and a baking summer sun, had seen nothing like it in their three months here.

In dawn-to-dusk fighting, more than 100 armed insurgents overran neighborhoods and occupied downtown buildings, using techniques that U.S. commanders said resembled those once employed by the Iraqi army.

Well-equipped and highly coordinated, the insurgents demonstrated a new level of strength and tactical skill that alarmed the soldiers facing them.

By the end of the day, infantry and armored patrols had driven the insurgents from the battered center of the city, though some remained in control of two po-

lice stations in districts long hostile to the occupation. Two U.S. soldiers were killed in the fight, including a company commander struck by a rocket-propelled grenade.

"They were definitely better than what we normally face," said Lt. T.J. Grider, 25, whose platoon fought for more than 12 hours. "But I think what we did today was pretty significant."

Coming less than a week before the U.S. occupation formally ends, the attacks brought into sharp focus the threat the lies ahead for Iraq's interim government and the challenge that remains for U.S. forces who will remain here to defend it. The U.S.-trained Iraqi police were routed or abandoned their posts rather than face a more capable foe, and military

commanders here said the battle for the city was far from over.

The insurgents fought in large, coordinated squads, set complex ambushes and occupied downtown buildings from which they apparently planned a long fight, U.S. military commanders said.

Striking first along two key avenues bracketing the city, the insurgents intended to isolate and overrun the local Coalition Provisional Authority compound and other downtown government buildings, the commanders said.

Several U.S. commanders suggested the tactics had been taught in recent weeks by skilled guerrilla commanders from outside the city, perhaps led by foreign fighters who came to Iraq to fight the American-led occupation.

They noted that the city's merchants received no warning of the attack, as they had before an armed uprising here in April. Many people struggled through rush-hour traffic, only to be turned away by the fighting.

The preparation had apparently been under way for weeks, with the attacks timed to be part of a series across Iraq on Thursday. After a powerful U.S. airstrike stopped the insurgents' momentum here before noon, soldiers found large weapons stockpiles in the rubble of a building and machine-gun positions set up at a technical college nearby.

"He's still in the city, and he's hiding. But he'll be back," said Lt. Col. Steve Bullimore, the task force commander responsible for Baquba, referring to his enemy. "I'm regrouping and waiting for the next fight. But I don't know when that will be."

Bullimore added, "It looked like he planned to fight there for a while. It was more than just a hit-and-run attack."

“[The enemy’s] still in the city, and he’s hiding. But he’ll be back.”

Lt. Col. Steve Bullimore
Task force commander

Afghan clash kills 2 Marines

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two U.S. Marines were killed and another wounded in an attack on Thursday in eastern Afghanistan, where American troops are hunting Taliban and al-Qaida rebels, the U.S. military said Friday.

The deaths brought to 92 the number of U.S. troops killed in or around Afghanistan since the start of the campaign which ousted the Taliban in late 2001, and came as insurgents intensify attacks in the run-up to national elections.

The clash occurred late Thursday in Kunar, a province on the border with Pakistan, military spokesman 1st Sgt. Dave Dyer said.

The wounded Marine was in stable condition. None of the soldiers was identified.

"Two Marines were killed and one was wounded during an operation northeast of Asadabad," the provincial capital, Dyer said in a brief statement.

Commanders sent 2,000 extra Marines into Afghanistan in the spring, helping to swell the U.S.-dominated coalition force to 20,000 — its largest yet — in an attempt to track down fugitive al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden and take the fight to Taliban-led rebels ahead of the September elections that they have vowed to sabotage.

Of the 92 U.S. servicemen who have now died in Afghanistan since late 2001, 52 have been killed in action. The Marines' first combat fatality came when one of its members was killed in an attack on a patrol in early May.



Iraqi men fight a fire in a house after battles between U.S. forces and Iraqi militants on Thursday.

U.S. strikes Fallujah again

BY ROBERT H. REID

The Associated Press

BAHGHAD — The U.S. military launched its third airstrike in a week Friday in Fallujah, using precision weapons to destroy a suspected safehouse for Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's terror network.

The Jordanian-born terrorist claimed responsibility for coordinated attacks in other Iraqi cities that killed more than 100 people Thursday — less than a week before Iraq's new government takes power. Insurgents set off car bombs and seized police stations in an offensive aimed at creating chaos before the handover.

"Wherever and whenever we find elements of the Zarqawi network, we will attack them," a military statement said of the strike.

U.S. officials estimated 20-25 casualties in the attack, without giving a breakdown of dead and wounded and without indicating how they determined the figure. Al-Jazeera television, in a report from Fallujah, said four U.S. missiles struck a vacant house in the eastern part of the city, injuring four residents of a nearby house.

In Baghdad, the country's new leadership, due to assume sovereignty in five days, promised stern action against the insurgents, claiming much of the unrest was directed by foreigners but offering no proof.

"Our culture, our customs have been destroyed," interim Defense Minister Hazem Shaalan said. "The time has come for a showdown."

Earlier Friday, U.S. tanks and armored vehicles maneuvered on a highway near the edges of Fallujah, firing down both sides of the road — a tactic that has been seen in the past — while armed men in an eastern suburb fired at the Americans, according to Fallujah residents. Seven people died in two days of fighting there, hospital officials said.

A roadside bomb exploded in a residential neighborhood in Baghdad, killing one Iraqi policeman and wounding another, police said.

In Thursday's coordinated attacks, insurgents set off car bombs and seized police stations in an offensive aimed at creating chaos just days before the handover of power to a new Iraqi government.

U.S. and Iraqi forces regained control in heavy fighting, but the day's violence killed more than 100 people, most of them Iraqi civilians.

Three U.S. soldiers were among the dead. At least 320 people were wounded, including 12 Americans. As the situation worsened, Iraq's interim vice president warned that a drastic deterioration in the country's security could result in the implementation of emergency measures or martial law — however undesirable that may be in a democratic society.

"Announcing emergency laws or martial law depends on the nature of the situation. In normal situations, there is clearly no need for that [step]," Ibrahim al-Jaafari, a Shiite and member of the Islamic Dawa Party, said.

In an interview that appeared Friday in the German newspaper Die Welt, Secretary of State Colin Powell said such a declaration "would make our task in Iraq more complex, because applying martial law is more a police problem than a military one — at least one would hope so."

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, 842 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 622 died as a result of hostile action and 220 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 704 U.S. servicemen have died — 513 as a result of hostile action and 191 of nonhostile causes, according to the military as of Thursday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Two U.S. servicemen were killed and seven wounded Thursday when their patrol was ambushed in Baquba.

■ A U.S. serviceman was killed Thursday by a car bomb in Mosul.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Juan Lopez, 24, of Whittfield, Ga., killed Monday in an attack in Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The following two soldiers were killed Tuesday in an ambush in Balad, but were assigned to the Army National Guards 579th Engineer Battalion, Petaluma, Calif.

■ Army 2nd Lt. Andre D. Tyson, 33, Riverside, Calif.

■ Army Spc. Patrick R. McCaffrey Sr., 34, Tracy, Calif.

Supporters of stop-loss bonus continue fight

Despite failure, legislators will keep pushing extra \$2,000 a month for extended service

By LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Supporters of legislation to give all stop-lossed servicemembers an extra \$2,000 per month vowed to fight on Friday after a failed attempt to insert the measure into the Senate defense appropriations.

The amendment was introduced by Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., on Thursday, the day the Senate voted on the spending bill.

Lautenberg said the bonus would be retroactive to March 2003, and cover all military services.

Stop-loss restrictions prevent servicemembers from retiring or leaving the service at their scheduled time.

Each service has applied stop-loss restrictions at one time or another since Sept. 11, 2001. But the only service with restrictions currently in place is the Army, which

has a "unit stop loss" policy in place since January 2002 that affects both active and reserve components tapped for duty in Iraq or Afghanistan.

About 45,000 soldiers have been prevented from leaving the Army because of stop loss, Maj. Gen. Franklin L. "Buster" Hagenbeck, the Army's chief for personnel matters, said earlier this month, and the Army intends to keep using stop loss for Iraq and Afghanistan-bound troops for "several years."

Right now, over 10,000 soldiers are affected by stop loss, one-third of whom are Army Reserve or National Guard, Lautenberg said.

The senator's count could not be verified. Pentagon and Army officials did not respond to queries by deadline.

If the stop-loss bonus amendment had passed as part of the Senate appropriations

bill, it would have automatically taken effect, according to Lautenberg legislative assistant Dafna Hochman.

But Senate leaders decline to allow the amendment to be introduced during the floor debate on the appropriations bill, Hochman said Friday.

"It was a worthy try," she said.

There are several fall-back plans for the measure at this point, Hochman said.

Backers could introduce the provision as a stand-alone legislation, or to try to attach the provision as an amendment to another bill, Hochman said.

A final option would be to attach the measure to a defense budget supplemental request, which the Bush administration has indicated it plans to submit in January in order to pay for Iraq and Afghanistan, Hochman said.

Regardless of the challenges, it is essential to keep the pressure on, said 1st Lt. Paul Rieckhoff, an Army National Guardsman who recently returned from a year in Iraq.

"Two thousand dollars is a lot of money to a lower enlisted troop on the ground," Rieckhoff said during a Thursday press conference with Lautenberg.

Ada Eagle, mother of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ron Eagle, who is now in Iraq, agreed.

She said of her son, a West Virginia National Guardsman and former active Air Force member, put in his retirement papers after 20 years of service in October 2003, only to be activated and stop-lossed the following month.

"He's doing overtime right now," Ada Eagle told Stripes on Thursday. "So pay him overtime."

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil

See related story
on Page 6

Technology helps commanders keep tabs on troops

By FRED ZIMMERMAN

Stars and Stripes

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — A relatively new way of viewing the battlefield has commanders in operation centers and troops in the thick of the fight now on the same computer screen.

Those vehicles and battle commands equipped with the Blue Force Tracker can now watch an unfolding fight in almost real time, according to Army Maj. Michael Martyn, tracker program manager. The system allows users to track vehicles on the battlefield and identify enemy positions and trouble spots.

It is made up of several computers, monitors, a Global Positioning System, and satellite communications gear. A completely installed system costs about \$20,000 a vehicle.

Each system has a touch screen that lets the user choose between a map or an satellite photo to display forces in the region. If a commander touches a blue icon on his screen, he will quickly learn everything from the type of vehicle and what role the crew is serving to its speed and unit.

"It gives you an overall picture of where your buddies are," said Greg Garrett, system integrator.

Blue Force Tracker is a cousin of Force 21 Battle Command, Brigade and Below, or FB21, which uses a similar set-up, but a network of strategically placed radio nodes are used to transmit data via satellites, Garrett said.

FB21 was introduced about eight years ago and BFT was created less than five years ago. Garrett said the latter system was designed to link units and commands in the rugged terrain



FRED ZIMMERMAN/Stars and Stripes

Army Maj. Michael Martyn, Blue Force Tracker program manager, demonstrates the system's capabilities by showing equipped vehicles currently on the ground in Iraq. Martyn pulled them up on the screen from a warehouse on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

of the Balkans, where its predecessor wouldn't work.

Half of the vehicles that have the latest system in Iraq were equipped in Kuwait, Garrett said. Not all vehicles were outfitted, he added, but several in each unit were just in time for the start of the war.

"We had installers jumping off the vehicles after finalizing [the system] as [the vehicles] crossed the term," Garrett said.

Since the system talks via satellite,

Martyn said it has a range that far exceeds typical radios. It especially comes in handy when calling for something like a medical evacuation, he said. Using the GPS, the command knows exactly where to send the help.

Martyn said while the system isn't real time, it does update often, allowing all who are watching to see progress.

It also allows an individual vehicle to electronically identify a spot on the map, letting everyone

else know about potential trouble.

"You can mark where the enemy is and everyone can see that at the same time, allowing a quicker reaction time," Martyn said. The system could also warn other vehicles of a threat, such as the location of a roadside bomb.

Martyn and Garrett said they are currently installing the system in armored Humvees in Kuwait. They said their crew of five installers can set up an average of 10 vehicles a day. Once those vehi-

cles head to Iraq or Afghanistan, they are turned over to the different rotating units to keep the technology in theater.

So far, military leaders seemed pleased with the system's results.

"It's a true combat enabler," Garrett said. "We'll query units and ask if the system made a good or bad impact. We've heard that it has made a difference between life and death."

E-mail Fred Zimmerman at: zimmerman@stripes.osd.mil

MIDEAST NOTEBOOK

Charlie Coon and Fred Zimmernan

A dirty job but someone's got to supervise

Lance Cpl. Chandler Pierce of Santa Rosa, Calif., 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, got the unsavory job this week of guarding a mostly-Iraqi crew work as it cleaned the Camp Baharia's 134 portable toilets.

"I've smelled better," said Pierce, 22, as he stood downwind from the toilet truck as it passed through the 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Company's camp.

The crew used a large vacuum hose attached to the truck to suck the Johns dry and then washed them down with a power sprayer, leaving behind a fresh roll of toilet paper in each. Pierce said his job was to make sure the crew didn't put bombs in the latrines.

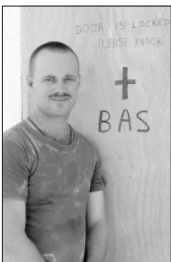
Pierce, of course, isn't the first U.S. servicemember to pull latrine duty; he isn't even the first in his family.

"My father [former Army Sgt. Earl Pierce] used to tell me stories about how he used to burn the [waste] back in Vietnam," he said.

Dancing the night away

Music fans can enjoy the latest tunes and put on their dancing shoes at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation zone 2 courtyard on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Troops can swing their partners each Monday during country & Western night, followed by Tuesday's latest R&B sounds. Wednesdays are reserved for techno/trance music, and Thursdays feature the laid back sounds of reggae. Budding stars can



Corpsman 2nd Class Robert Hamilton of Jacksonville, N.C., says the medical staff for the 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance uses some unusual methods to treat gunshot wounds.

make themselves known at open microphone/karaoke night on Fridays, and MWR spices things up on Saturdays for salsa night. The music, being spun by volunteer troops, begins at 7:30 p.m. each night and ends at 11 p.m.

Other MWR sites on the smaller "sub-camps" on Camp Arifjan — Truckville, Camden Yards and Arlington — also hold the themed music nights, but not on the same days.

MWR managers said the most popular night at each facility is country & Western night. They said honkey tonk fans will travel to each MWR location for their



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Lance Cpl. Chandler Pierce of Santa Rosa, Calif., and Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, guards the toilet-cleaning crew as it works its way around Camp Baharia, Iraq.

country night. The salsa night runs a close second, they said.

Air Force Tech Sgt. Charles Daniels, with the 887th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, said he's not surprised with the musically themed nights.

"I went TDY to Turkey and they had country night there," he said. "I also went to Korea and they had it there, too."

Daniels said it may not be the typical saloon back home, he said it does bring a piece of the States to the desert.

Use what works

Since the 2nd LAR company is an infantry-mechanized unit and no women are assigned to it, it was odd to see a small stack of tampons in its one-room aid station. It turns out, though, that medics think they're perfect for quickly treating some gunshot wounds.

"They fit and they swell," said Corpsman 2nd Class Robert Hamilton, who heads the company's medical staff. "You use whatever you can get hands on."

Hamilton, of Jacksonville, N.C., said he picked up the technique from other corpsmen, but he hasn't yet had to utilize it. Hamilton said sanitary napkins also come in handy, even in all-male units.

"It's just a means of soaking up fluid during treatment," he said.

Stars and Stripes reporters Charlie Coon and Fred Zimmernan contributed to this report. Charlie Coon can be reached in Iraq at: coon@mail.ustrps.osd.mil. Fred Zimmernan can be reached in Kuwait at: zimmernan@mail.ustrps.osd.mil

Messages of Support

★ New Orleans loves and prays for you. Everywhere you look, you see flags, yellow ribbons, and signs saying PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS. And we do love and pray for you. You are our HEROES. Thank you so much. We watch the news far too much; you are always on our minds and in our prayers. We ask God day and night to keep each one of you safe and in His constant care. We hope this ends soon and you will get to come home. Every Sun, thousands of us are reminded to pray for you, as if we could forget what you have chosen to do for America and for us. No matter what is going on there, remember we have your back covered with prayer. Gratefully yours, Claire and Jeff in Louisiana

★ This message is to my husband M. Rodriguez. All of your family and friends in San Diego would like you to know how much we love and miss you. We are so proud of you and all of our servicemen who proudly and courageously serve our country every day. The United States of America is the greatest nation it is because of people like you. I am so proud to be your wife and I know our kids are proud of their father. God Bless you all and come home safe. With all my love always, your wife Fay

★ THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE VERY BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE RISKING THEIR LIVES EVERY MINUTE TO PROTECT OUR COUNTRY AND THE WORLD. MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU AND WATCH OVER YOU AND BRING YOU HOME SAFE AND SOON!!!!

No court-martial for Air Force pilot in accidental bombing of Canadians

By DOUG SIMPSON

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A U.S. fighter pilot who mistakenly dropped a bomb that killed four Canadians in Afghanistan will not be court-martialed, military officials said.

Maj. Harry Schmidt, 37, will face four dereliction-of-duty charges in a nonjudicial forum, beginning next week. The charges will be dismissed in court, the Air Force announced Thursday.

Schmidt could be punished with 30 days confinement or loss of one month's pay, about \$5,600, Air Force spokeswoman Col. Alvin Mitchell said.

A member of the Illinois Air Na-

tional Guard, Schmidt originally was charged with manslaughter and aggravated assault and faced up to 64 years in prison. Military officials recommended against a court-martial on those charges last June, offering nonjudicial punishment instead.

Schmidt turned down the offer, saying he wanted to clear his name in a court-martial. Schmidt's lawyer, Charles W. Gittins, said the Air Force has agreed to allow his client to remain employed with the Illinois Air National Guard, but not as a pilot.

Gittins said Schmidt did not want to fly for the Air Force anymore because he believes he has been "second guessed in a combat situation by people sitting

back in the air-conditioned comfort of the Pentagon."

Schmidt was charged for dropping the 500-pound, laser-guided bomb on April 17, 2002, near Kandahar, killing four and wounding eight Canadian soldiers who were conducting live-fire exercises.

The victims were the first Canadians to die in combat since the Korean War.

Schmidt later said he released the bomb because he mistook the Canadians' gunfire for an attack from Taliban soldiers. A military investigation found Schmidt should have flown out of the area.

Schmidt's mission commander, Maj. William Umbach, also had manslaughter and aggravated assault charges dismissed and he was allowed to retire.

Col. Kevin Owens takes command of Sky Soldiers

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — It's been an eventful two years for the Sky Soldiers and their commander, Col. Bill Mayville.

That association officially came to an end Friday as Col. Kevin Owens assumed command of the 173rd Airborne Brigade in a ceremony at Caserma Ederle.

"A lot has happened in the two years since I last stood face-to-face with the brigade on this parade field," Mayville said.

Most notably, the brigade spent almost a year in Iraq, with 1,000 members parachuting into the country in one of the largest American combat jumps since World War II.

Elements from the brigade also participated in nearly two dozen deployments during that span, including two airborne operations in Kosovo.

The 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infan-

try Regiment also has been re-formed, joining the 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry Regiment to make up the majority of the brigade's fighting forces.

Those forces were put to the test in northern Iraq, where the brigade was largely on its own during the conflict while the bulk of American forces zoomed toward Baghdad from the south.

Since the brigade returned, about 30 percent of its strength has turned over, with just about all the leadership positions changing hands. That now includes Mayville, who will move across the base and take on duties as chief of staff for the Southern European Task Force (Airborne).

Owens moved from those offices to take over the brigade. He's served as director of operations for SETAF for the last year. Before that, he led a group of Ranger and Afghan forces during the war.

He thanked Mayville for handing over "what is, without ques-



KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

From left, Col. Kevin Owens, the incoming commander of the 173rd Airborne Brigade; Maj. William Butler and Col. Bill Mayville, the outgoing brigade commander, review the troops on Friday during the change-of-command ceremony at Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy.

tion, the finest brigade in the United States Army."

Owens said the brigade has been busy under Mayville's command, but soldiers shouldn't expect to let up any time soon. Brig. Gen. Jason Kamiya, the SETAF commander, said the brigade had "probably set an Army record" for deployments recently.

Mayville talked of moments from several of those deployments in his farewell remarks, including a promise he made to a wounded soldier in Iraq that he would remain on jump status "when I knew he would probably never stand on his own two feet again."

He read off the names of the

nine soldiers from the brigade who died in Iraq and said, "I will always remember the names and faces of the soldiers we did not bring home."

He ended his remarks in poetic fashion: "I was once a Sky Soldier. But am no more. Airborne all the way. Sky Soldiers."

E-mail: Kent Harris at: harris@mail.starsandstripes.com

U.S. Senate passes \$416B defense spending bill

BY ALAN FRAM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A \$416 billion Pentagon spending bill for next year was passed unanimously by the Senate in a move aimed at providing funding relief to a military strapped by two wars and counterterror efforts.

The Senate voted 98-0 Thursday for the bill, which includes \$2.5 billion for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and extra money for adding 20,000 Army troops and equipment such as Chinook helicopters.

Senate Appropriations Commi-

ttee Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, the bill's chief author, said the vote reflected bipartisan support for immediate war funds.

The money for Iraq and Afghanistan would be available as soon as the measure becomes law, which congressional leaders hope happens by late July.

"It is a symbol to the country that we're able to come together in times of crisis," Stevens said.

An amendment by Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., for \$10 million for research into leishmaniasis, a skin disease that has cost the mil-

itary millions of dollars and 60,000 lost duty days in Afghanistan and Iraq, passed.

It was the second victory this week in Daschle's efforts. On Tuesday, the Senate passed the FY 2005 Defense Authorization bill, which included \$5 million for the research.

Not counting the funds for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the bill is \$22.5 billion, or 6 percent, over this year's total.

The overall bill provides \$1.6 billion less than what President Bush requested.

Included is \$76.5 billion — \$1.8 billion more than he wanted —

for purchasing weapons and other equipment, plus money for a 3.5 percent military pay raise.

Bush proposed having the power to move the entire \$25 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan to whatever war-related accounts he chose.

The Senate bill allows him to move \$2.5 billion of the \$25 billion.

The rest would be assigned to specific accounts, though some — such as \$17.5 billion for operations and maintenance — are still broad enough to give the president much leeway.

The bill is also similar to a \$417

billion defense spending bill the House approved on Tuesday.

Congressional leaders hope to complete a compromise version of the measure and send it to Bush before lawmakers begin a six-week recess in late July.

As the Senate sped through amendments, it also used a voice vote to add \$95 million for victims of warfare and famine in Sudan and Chad, in an amendment sponsored by Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, and others.

But by 54-44, it rejected an amendment by Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., to provide \$118 million more.

Stripes editor Patrick Dickson contributed to this report from Washington.

New commander at 254th Base Support Battalion

The U.S. Army community in the Benelux has a new commander at the head of the 254th Base Support Battalion.

At a ceremony last week in Schinnen, Netherlands, Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson assumed command from Lt. Col. Deborah P. Broughton, said Sandy Aubrey, a BSB spokeswoman.

The 254th BSB provides quality-of-life support to 6,500 U.S. military and Defense Department personnel scattered across the Netherlands, parts of Belgium, Luxembourg and northwestern Germany.

Broughton, 42, leaves to become deputy chief of staff at the Pentagon for Force Development, managing military police and force protection systems.

Prior to coming to Schinnen Richardson served with V Corps in Heidelberg, Germany.

A veteran of Iraq, Richardson was a deputy commander handling visitors' issues for Coalition Joint Task Force-7.

Richardson, who is married with two daughters, has a bachelor's degree in psychology from San Diego State University and a master's degree in information technology from Webster University, St. Louis.

He also attended the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

From staff reports

BY ROXANA HEGEMAN

The Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — Eleven people were indicted in a \$2 million scheme to steal insulin and insulin test strips from Army base pharmacies for sale on the black market, prosecutors said Wednesday.

The indictment charges that between 2002 and 2003, nine Army pharmacy technicians conspired to steal the insulin and test strips from pharmacies at Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Polk, La.; Fort Knox, Ky.; Fort Lee, Va.; Fort Gordon, Ga.; and at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

The technicians were in charge

of the post pharmacies. Also indicted were the wives of two of the technicians. An estimated 40,000 vials of insulin were stolen.

"They took advantage of their position of responsibility that the Army had entrusted them with to be responsible for these inventory items and used it for their own personal benefit," U.S. Attorney Eric Melgren said.

None of the defendants is in custody; most are expected to voluntarily surrender. Initial appearances were set for July 12.

Melgren said a 10-month investigation began after a traffic stop in Topeka, where police discov-

ered stolen pharmacy goods in the possession of a Fort Riley pharmacy technician.

Insulin typically sells for \$70 a vial through legitimate outlets. Black market insulin sells for possibly half of that price, Melgren said.

People with diabetes need insulin, usually taken as an injection, to regulate their blood sugar. Insulin was targeted for the thefts because the conspirators allegedly were able to tap into that black market, Melgren said.

The charges include conspiracy to transport stolen goods in interstate commerce and conspiracy to commit mail fraud. The investigation is continuing.

11 indicted for Army insulin theft scheme



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Marsha Evans
President and CEO, American Red Cross
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)



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PHOTOS BY SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason Marx makes the sign of the cross as he walks by a display in tribute to Petty Officer 2nd Class Tim Sporleder on Friday at the base chapel at Naval Station Rota, Spain. Sporleder, a member of Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Unit Rota, was killed in a car accident this past weekend.

Sailors honor shipmate killed in Rota car crash

Petty officer remembered as top technician, loyal friend

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — Sailors in Rota on Friday honored a shipmate killed in a traffic accident this past weekend as an outstanding sailor, a top-notch technician and a loyal friend.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Timothy Sporleder, deployed on a 10-month sea cruise participating in both the war on terror and the war in Iraq in 2002 before arriving in Rota last summer. He was attached to Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Unit Rota and served as the Support Equipment Division standardization manager and the unit central technical publications librarian.

He was 25.

"Personally and professionally, he was one of the best," said Lt. Rex Burkett, unit's officer in charge.

Sporleder, an aviation maintenance administration man from Climax Springs, Mo., died June 19 when the car he was driving ran off the road and rolled. Spanish authorities are investigating the incident.

His passenger, Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew Hays, of Vancouver, Wash., survived the acci-



"Personally and professionally, he was one of the best."

Lt. Rex Burkett
unit's officer in charge

Petty Officer 1st Class Danny Blumer and Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason Marx talked about how Sporleder was a loyal friend.

"He will be missed greatly," Marx said.

A table near the chapel's altar displayed his uniform and a framed photograph of Sporleder. Two large wreaths were set on each side of the table.

Sporleder joined the Navy in 1999 and quickly climbed up the ranks to first-class petty officer. Burkett said Sporleder was one of the finest technicians he has ever worked with in his career.

"Although we will carry on, we will never be the same," he added.

After the ceremony, sailors escorted his flag-draped coffin to waiting airplane. Sporleder will be buried in the United States. He is survived by his parents, Howard and Carolyn Sporleder.

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Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Danny Blumer talks about Sporleder during Friday's memorial service.

dent. He attended the memorial service at the base chapel with a neck brace.

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

Senate support makes SBP fix a near certainty

It might take four to 10 years, but the sharp drop in survivor benefits at age 62 for military widows and widowers appears certain to be phased out beginning next year.

Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., made that more likely when on Wednesday she refused, despite mounting pressure from Senate leaders, to withdraw her amendment to eliminate the age-62 drop in benefits under the military's Survivor Benefit Plan. Because Landrieu held out, she won a compromise.

For the first time ever, said Steve Strobebridge, director of government relations for the Military Officers Association of America, both the House and Senate defense bills support a "significant SBP provision" that, he said, "pretty much guarantees we're going to get some SBP fix" this year.

The revised amendment, approved unanimously, would phase out the age-62 reduction over 10 years, starting in October 2005, versus 3½ years, starting next April, under the House-passed plan that Landrieu's original amendment had embraced.

Landrieu's original amendment proposed only a modest penalty, no more than 4.5 percent of covered retired pay each month on top of regular premiums of 6.5 percent. That is too low to be fair to retirees who have paid premiums for years or even decades, said Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev.

He proposed instead that retirees coming late to SBP be asked to pay all premiums they would have paid if they had enrolled earlier, plus interest.

John Warner, R-Va., chairman of the Armed Services Committee and floor manager of the \$447 billion defense bill, had signaled his support for Ensign's substitute amendment. Landrieu, too, agreed. But the next afternoon before final passage, Warner asked Landrieu to pull her amendment, a source said. She refused. Negotiations continued with Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, playing a role. Warner and Landrieu finally agreed to the second change, a 10-year

phase-in of higher benefits at 62. "Obviously we would much prefer the 3½ year phase-in found in the House bill," said Strobebridge. "But we have an opportunity to work that in the House-Senate conference. We will be pulling out all stops to get conferees to approve a fix more like the House than the Senate."

Help for the disabled

The Senate also approved an amendment from Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., to speed restoration of full retired pay to 30,000 military retirees rated 100 percent disabled.

Retirees with service-related disabilities see retired pay reduced, dollar for dollar, by their disability compensation.

Reid's amendment would allow retirees last year voted for a 10-year phase-out of this offset by paying retirees a new Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payment.

CRDP is to replace lost retired pay to those with combined disability ratings of 50 percent or higher. It began in January. The highest amount, \$750 a month, goes to 100 percent disabled retirees.

The Reid amendment would repeal the 10-year phase-out of the offset for 100 percent disabled retirees and allow full restoration of retired pay next January.

Reserve retirement

An amendment by Sen. John Corzine, D-N.J., to lower reserve retirement age from 60 to 55 didn't fare as well. Warner challenged it on a budgetary point of order, citing almost \$2 billion a year in added costs.

Warner warned Congress that if it continued to "narrow differences" between reserve and active-duty pay and benefits, the services not only will see increased net costs so but could see an exodus of manpower from active components into the reserve component.

Comments are welcomed. Write to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va. 20121. E-mail: milupdate@aol.com or visit: www.militaryupdate.com

IN THE STATES

Sources: Ryan to drop Senate bid

BY DAVID ESPO AND
RON FOURNIER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Illinois Republican candidate Jack Ryan intends to abandon his Senate bid after four days spent trying to weather a political storm stirred by sex club allegations, GOP officials said Friday.

A formal announcement was expected within hours, said these officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Ryan conducted an overnight poll to gauge his support in the wake of the allegations made by his ex-wife in divorce records unsealed earlier this week. Aides said in advance his only options were to withdraw or to redouble his campaign efforts with a massive infusion of money from his personal wealth.

Illinois GOP leaders would select another candidate in the event of a withdrawal. Ryan's replacement would become an instant underdog in a campaign against Democratic State Sen. Barack Obama.

One official said a withdrawal statement was in the drafting stages. Two officials said Ryan's staff was spreading the word of his intentions. "He knows he can't go on," said one official, who spoke with the campaign.

Illinois Republican Party leaders convened a teleconference, although it wasn't clear whether they had yet turned to dis-

cussion of who might replace Ryan some four months before the November election.

While polls have shown Ryan trailing Obama from the start, several party strategists said they were concerned about the impact on Republicans running for the state legislature and other offices if he stayed on the ballot.

The Senate election is to replace Republican Peter Fitzgerald, who decided not to seek a second term.

Ryan has been struggling for political survival since Monday, when divorce records were released showing that his ex-wife, "Star Trek Voyager" actress Jeri Ryan, said he took her to sex clubs and tried to pressure her to perform sex acts while others watched. Ryan has denied the allegations.

Although Fitzgerald and the National Republican Senatorial Committee stood by Ryan, he came under immediate pressure from many GOP officials in his home state to relinquish his nomination.

Members of the state's GOP congressional delegation met with House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., on Thursday to discuss the issue, and one official said afterward that the speaker concurred that Ryan needed to step aside.

Hastert declined to elaborate Friday, simply saying, "That's up to him. It's his choice. It's not whether I want to or not."

Fitzgerald said Friday that he had encouraged Ryan to stay in the race, calling the response to the scandal "grotesque."

"I told him that it troubled me greatly that so many party leaders who had no trouble stonewalling years and years of corruption and insider deals and scandals under George Ryan were now lining up to throw stones at Jack [no relation to George Ryan]," Fitzgerald said.

"I think the public stoning of Jack Ryan is one of the most grotesque things I've seen in politics," he said. He said he talked to Ryan on Thursday but hadn't spoken with him since then.

Ryan, 44, was seen by many as the party's best hope of revitalization after a devastating 2002 election, in which Illinois Republicans lost control of the governor's office and nearly every statewide office, and an ongoing corruption scandal involving former Gov. George Ryan, who has since been indicted.

But those hopes were dashed by the unsealing of his divorce records. Ryan had fought the unsealing, saying it would harm his 9-year-old son. The Chicago Tribune and Chicago TV station WLS used to have the records released.

Associated Press Writer Dennis Conrad in Washington and Maura Kelly Lannan in Chicago contributed to this report.

3 LAPD officers investigated for using excessive force in arrest

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Three officers involved in the videotaped beating of an unarmed black man during an arrest will be investigated for excessive use of force, Police Chief William Bratton said.

A total of eight officers have been placed on desk duty as the FBI and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department investigate, Bratton said Thursday. The LAPD also has started an internal probe which Bratton vowed would be fair and open.

"We'll get into this we'll look at it in every way we can," Bratton told NBC's "Today" show on Friday. "Certainly as you look at that video, the average person looks at that and says 'Oh My God!'"

Still, the chief urged the public to withhold judgment until the investigations are complete. He said the officers were trying to get control of a suspect who had not been searched for firearms.

Officer John Hatfield, 35, appeared to hit Stanley Miller 11 times with a flashlight after the man had surrendered following a car chase. Miller, 36, was not seriously hurt but complained of being struck in the head and had a bruised cheek, police said.

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Stars and Stripes reporter Terry Boyd speaks with Servicemembers from Triple Deuce at Firebase Purgatory.

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From left to right, Sgt. Wesley Parkhurst, Spec. Robert Isaacs, Terry Boyd, and Pfc. Michael Greenwood.

Short rules on longer sentences

Says juries, not judges, are responsible for doling out extra punishment

By REBECCA COOK

The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — A wealthy Washington rancher who kidnapped his estranged wife at knifepoint had his sentence overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, which put state sentencing guidelines in question by ruling that judges alone cannot impose extra-long prison terms.

Ralph Howard Blakely II was sentenced to more than seven years in prison for the 1998 kidnapping. He forced the woman into a coffin-like box and drove her to Montana in the back of his pickup truck.

A judge had said Blakely acted with "deliberate cruelty" and deserved a longer prison term than the four years set out in state sentencing guidelines.

But the high court ruled 5-4 on Thursday that juries must decide whether to impose sentences beyond the guidelines.

The right to a jury trial "is no

mere procedural formality, but a fundamental reservation of power in our constitutional structure," Justice Antonin Scalia wrote for an odd lineup of concurring justices from both the left and the right.

Scalia said "was sentenced to prison for more than three years because of the crime to which he consented on the basis of a trial judge's unilateral decision," Scalia wrote.

The Constitution's framers

Scalia said the case was not about the constitutional of state sentencing systems that give judges a limited range of sentences for a given crime, but dissenters in Thursday's case predicted it will wreak havoc across the states and the federal courts.

in Thursday's case predicted it will wreak havoc across the states and the federal courts.

"would not have thought it too much to demand that, before depriving a man of his liberty, the state should suffer the modest inconvenience of submitting its accusation" to a jury, Scalia wrote.

Scalia said the case was not about the constitutionality of state sentencing systems that gave judges a limited range of sentences for a given crime, but dissenters

Guidelines used by many states and the federal court system were meant to produce more uniform sentences. Some judges chafe under guidelines they say can be too rigid and inflexible.

The decision dismayed Grant County Prosecutor John Knodell, who prosecuted Blakely in 2000 and argued the case before the Supreme Court.

"They have taken what was essentially a baseline and they've made that a borderline instead," Knodell said.

Blakely and others in his situation will either have their sentences reduced to fit the guidelines, Knodell said, or a jury will re-sentence them. Under the guidelines, Blakely's prison term would end around July 1. Justices John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, Clarence Thomas and Ruth Bader Ginsburg agreed with Scalia. That majority includes the court's two most liberal members — Stevens and Ginsburg — and its two most conservative — Scalia and Thomas.

Experts put word out on Web attack

By TED BRIDIS

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Government and industry experts warned late Thursday of a mysterious, large-scale Internet attack against thousands of popular Web sites. The virus-like infection tries to implant hacker software onto the computers of all Web site visitors.

Industry experts and the Homeland Security Department were studying the infection to determine how it spreads across Web sites and find adequate defenses against it.

"Users should be aware that any Web site, even those that may be trusted by the user, may be affected by this activity and thus contain potentially malicious code," the government warned in one Internet alert.

The mysterious infection appeared to target at least one recent version of software by Microsoft Corp. to operate Web sites, called its Internet Information Server, popular among businesses and organizations.

A spokesman for Microsoft declined to comment immediately.

Experts said the attack's effects were unusually broad but weren't substantially interfering with Internet traffic.

"While this is significant, it has no impact on the operation of the Internet," said Marcus Sachs, who helps run the industry's Internet Storm Center in Bethesda, Md.

Experts urgently recommended consumers and corporate employees to update the antivirus software on their computers, since the latest versions can immunize visitors to infected Web sites.

The infected Web sites attempt to implant on visitors' computers a hacker software that allows others to use their computers to surreptitiously route Internet spam e-mails.

Town strives to 'cover up' history

By TRUDY TYNAN

The Associated Press

DEERFIELD, Mass. — They are etched in stone, memories from battles fought here 300 years ago. But with words like "savages" and praise for "patriots" who attacked non-combatants, they only tell one side of the story — and no one is arguing that.

Proud descendants of Deerfield's white settlers erected historical markers by the dozens here back in the days when the battleground with American Indian tribes had shifted west to the Black Hills of South Dakota.

But now, some say, the markers have become a modern embarrassment in this museum village that for centuries has been consumed with preserving history.

So, in an exhibit, unabashedly called "Covering Up History," historians have hung removable banners over some of the marble plaques in Memorial Hall Museum commemorating the attacks on Deerfield during the French and Indian Wars. Visitors are invited to comment on the rewrite.

The aim is to drape the rhetoric of the 1870s and 1880s, when the museum was established, with a more modern version of events in the late 1600s and early 1700s that no longer denigrates one-time foes.

"It was hard for me and other members of



Some of the stone markers commemorating the American Indian raids on the town of Deerfield, Mass., are displayed in this file photo, at the Memorial Hall Museum. Town officials have put overalls on several signs that read words like "savages."

the staff to rationalize the words. Phrases like "bloodthirsty savages" are hurtful to people," said Suzanne Flynn, a curator at the museum. Visitors can still lift the banners to view original inscriptions, such as "Mary Field, adopted by an Indian. Was named WALAHOWEY. She married a savage and became one."

The covering version reads: "Mary, adopt-

ed by a Kanien'kehaka (Mohawk). Was named WALAHOWEY (WELAHAWI). She married a Kanien'kehaka and adopted the culture, customs and language of her new community in Kahanawake."

The written comments left by other visitors were divided, but most said they hoped the museum would keep both interpretations of history.

Solicitor General Olson resigns, will return to private practice

By CURT ANDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Solicitor General Theodore Olson, who represented the Bush administration before the Supreme Court and became a voice for strong antiterrorism policies after his wife died in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, said Thursday he is resigning to return to law practice.

Olson, 63, said he will leave his post in July, shortly after the Supreme Court completes its current term. He has served as solicitor general since June 11, 2001, and, prior to joining the Justice

Department, represented President Bush in the legal battle over the disputed 2000 presidential election.

Exactly three months after he took office, Olson's wife, Barbara, also a prominent Washington lawyer and conservative commentator, died aboard the plane that crashed into the Pentagon.

After the attacks, Olson became a personal symbol of the cost of terrorism and later took an unusually public role for an administration Supreme Court lawyer, particularly in support of its



Olson

terrorism is the best way to honor the attack victims.

"Their suffering and deaths must fuel our dedication to

stamp out this cancer," Olson said.

In his resignation statement Thursday, Olson said that the struggle against terrorism "will be long and arduous" but said that President Bush has the nation on the right path to prevail.

No successor was immediately named, but Olson's top deputy is Paul Clement, who would likely take over on an acting basis.

The timing of Olson's departure would give a replacement time to prepare for the Supreme Court's fall term in October.

As solicitor general, Olson par-

ticipated in 26 oral arguments before the Supreme Court, prevailing on 20 of the 23 that have been decided as of Thursday, according to the Justice Department. These include cases about the Pledge of Allegiance in schools, the secrecy of Vice President Dick Cheney's energy task force documents and a key school voucher case.

In a statement, Attorney General John Ashcroft called Olson "a dedicated patriot" whose "judgment and legal skill have greatly benefited the American people in so many ways, but particularly in our fight against terror."

IN THE WORLD

Police sweep Istanbul before Bush arrives

Turkish security cracks down on eve of NATO summit

BY JAMES C. HELICKE

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Turkish police sealed off streets, searched cars and blew up suspicious packages Friday as part of a huge security sweep a day before President Bush arrives in Turkey and a day after bombings killed four people in two cities here.

Around the convention center where a NATO summit begins Monday, police installed dark-blue steel barricades. Officers searched the trunks of cars and frisked people along the road heading to Istanbul's airport, causing gridlock on Istanbul's already clogged streets.

Helicopters flew near the summit area and over an Ottoman palace where a dinner for NATO leaders will be held.

The security measures came after two explosions Thursday — one outside the Ankara hotel where Bush is expected to start Saturday and a second on an Istanbul bus. The bombings killed four people and wounded 17.

See related story on Page 13

"Such incidents have a negative effect on our country and our future," Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Friday.

Militant leftists appeared to be behind the bombings, authorities said. Militant Kurdish, Islamic and leftist groups are active in the country, and security in Istanbul has been of special concern since last November, when four suicide truck bombings blamed on the al-Qaida terror network killed more than 60 people.

Scores of people believed to be linked to radical groups have been detained in security sweeps in recent weeks.

On Friday, Istanbul police detained some 40 people with suspected links to illegal groups, including about 15 who were believed to have been trained in Afghanistan and possibly have links to al-Qaida, security sources said. Several foreigners were among

them, the Anatolia news agency said. It was not clear whether authorities would press charges.

Also, Istanbul prosecutors formally pressed terrorism-related charges against 64 suspects linked to DHKP-C who were arrested in operations in Italy, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Turkey in April, Anatolia said. The crackdown came ahead of the NATO summit and the Olympics in Athens.

More than 23,000 police will be on duty during the NATO summit, which Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and France's Jacques Chirac among others — are to attend.

Defense Minister Vecdi Gönül said there was "no situation present that would affect the NATO meeting."

Daily protests have been held against the summit and the Bush visit. The president is extremely unpopular in Turkey, where most people opposed the Iraq war.



Turkish women chant Islamic slogans in front of the Beyazit mosque in Istanbul, Turkey, on Friday, during a demonstration against the upcoming NATO summit and visit by President Bush.

NATO raids Serb suspect's former war base

The Associated Press

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina — NATO-led peacekeepers on Friday raided the former wartime headquarters of Bosnia's most wanted war crimes suspect, NATO said.

The Friday morning raid targeted the Panorama Hotel, where Bosnian Serb wartime political leader Radovan Karadzic and his closest associates were based during the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

Peacekeepers also raided the Pale premises of Karadzic's Serb Democratic Party, but did not say if anything was found.

"This morning we conducted an unannounced inspection of facilities in Pale in order to ensure a safe and secure environment," NATO said in a statement.

Karadzic was the leader of Bosnia's Serbs during the ethnic war that claimed 200,000 lives and left 1.8 million people homeless. He and fellow fugitive Ratko Mladic, his general, were indicted in 1995 by the U.N. court at The Hague, Netherlands, for their alleged roles in atrocities that included the Serb massacre of up to 8,000 Muslims at Srebrenica.

Friday's search came three days after Bosnian Serb President Dragan Covic made the first formal acknowledgment by the top Bosnian Serb official that the



NATO-led peacekeepers in Bosnia, in solid-color uniforms, secure the premises of the Serb Democratic Party, founded by the fugitive war criminal Radovan Karadzic. Members of a special military unit carry away confiscated documents. The SDP headquarters is in the Bosnian Serb wartime stronghold of Pale.

massacre at Srebrenica took place and was the work of Serb forces.

Cavic's expression of regret was welcomed by the international community, but diplomats here said it would mean little unless the perpetrators were

brought to justice.

NATO-led peacekeepers deployed in Bosnia have a standing order to arrest Karadzic, but dozens of raids — the latest in April in Pale, Karadzic's wartime stronghold east of Sarajevo — have been unsuccessful.

Peacekeepers have failed to arrest Karadzic in part because a network of supporters helps him financially and keeps him informed about troop movements. Karadzic is believed to change his location several times a day to evade arrest.

ceived no complaints from anti-drug activists.

He said the flavored vodka is sold mostly in large supermarket chains and in some restaurants.

A pint bottle sells for about \$3.20.

From The Associated Press

Iran tanker crash kills 71

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — A tanker truck carrying gasoline crashed into packed buses in southern Iran and erupted in flames, killing 71 people, news reports said Friday. Another 108 people were injured, many suffering severe burns.

The buses were stopped at a police station on the main road between Bam and Zahedan when the truck smashed into them Thursday evening, said Heidar Ali Nouraei, mayor of the city of Zahedan, about 70 miles away.

The road is along a major drug smuggling route that runs from Afghanistan through Iran and on to the West, and buses often stop at police stations on highways there to be inspected for contraband.

Hossein Amini, governor general of Sistan-Baluchistan province, where the accident occurred, said the crash killed 71 people and injured 108.

The truck was carrying more than 4,500 gallons of gas. Nouraei said the casualties could have been much lower but there wasn't any firefighting equipment nearby to douse the flames.

The head of Zahedan Medical Sciences University, Mohammad Naqi Hosseini Tabatabaee, told state TV that more than 100 people died.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency said its steering mechanism may have failed. It said a truck containing tar was one of those hit by the tanker.

Video images showed buses gutted by fire and at least one longive turned on its side. Survivors were crying and slapping themselves in the face, a mourning ritual.

Let them drink pot

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — A large alcoholic drinks manufacturer here has launched a marijuana flavored liquor, the company said Friday.

The drink does not contain any tetrahydro-

cannabinol (THC) — the active substance in marijuana — but does have an alcohol level of 16 percent. Jiri Janak, the head of liquor production at Drinks Union, told The Associated Press.

"We produce it from hemp, but there's no THC in it," Janak said, adding he has re-

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COLDWELL BANKER'S MILITARY MARKETS

Anti-American feelings mounting in Turkey

By LOUIS MEIXLER

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — A cartoon on the front page of a Turkish newspaper shows Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan standing alone at the airport welcoming President Bush. Behind Erdogan an angry crowd holds placards reading "Bush Go

Home!" and "No to Bush."

Turkey is one of the United States' closest allies in the region, but when Bush arrives Saturday ahead of a NATO summit, he will find a country where anti-American sentiments are soaring because of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Bush "has created chaos in the world, triggered terror, and

brought blood, tears, and homelessness to the Middle East, instead of bringing stability," said Nesrin Saral, 35, as she shopped for shoes in an Istanbul mall.

What the United States "has been doing to prevent terror is really being done to gain more land and oil," she said.

Distrust of the United States is

not limited to the Turkish streets. The military is also extremely wary about the U.S. presence in Iraq, politicians worry the U.S. invasion could lead to Iraq's collapse, destabilizing the region.

"We Turks don't have much sympathy for Bush," said Sami Kohen, a columnist with the Milliyet newspaper. The way that he has been portrayed (is) that he is for war and that he invaded Iraq and that he is acting very selfishly ... and that he doesn't even consult his allies.

Turkey is an ally of increasing importance for the United States and its efforts to stabilize Iraq and change perceptions in the Islamic world. Turkey is a secular, democratic state, the only Muslim member of NATO, and a candidate for membership in the European Union.

Erdogan was one of a handful of regional leaders invited to a summit of major industrialized countries in the United States this month to discuss U.S. proposals to promote democracy in the region.

Despite the public's anger over Iraq, ties with the world's only superpower are critical for Turkey as it pushes for EU membership and struggles to improve its economy.

"Turkish-American relations are strategic and therefore I don't expect tense or low relations over the long run," said governing party lawmaker Murat Mercan.

"There may be differences of opinions on some occasions," he said, but Turkey regards "America as our strategic ally ... and for the United States, Turkey is also in the same category."

Bush arrives in Ankara on Saturday night. He meets with Turkish leaders Sunday before leaving for Istanbul and the NATO summit, which opens Monday.

Among issues NATO leaders are expected to discuss are the possible role for alliance troops in helping to stabilize Iraq.

The Ankara meetings are likely to focus on efforts

to promote stability in Iraq and Turkey's drive to join the EU, U.S. and Turkish officials said.

Ankara is almost certain to press Washington to crack down on Turkish Kurdish guerrillas, who have bases and several thousand fighters in northern Iraq.

The guerrillas announced the end of a unilateral cease-fire this month and attacks on soldiers in southern Turkey have escalated.

The United States has been reluctant to move against guerrilla bases in northern Iraq, but one of the only stable regions in the country.

Washington is likely to emphasize Turkey's role in promoting stability in Iraq, but is unlikely to

Turkey bombings

A bus bomb in Istanbul, Turkey, killed three Thursday, shortly after an earlier explosion outside the Ankara hotel where President Bush is expected to stay before Monday's NATO summit.



have specific requests for Ankara, officials said.

U.S.-Turkish relations plummeted last March, when Turkey's parliament rejected an American request to allow tens of thousands of U.S. troops to use Turkish bases as a staging point for the Iraq invasion.

The United States later withdrew some 50 warplanes from Incirlik air base in southern Turkey to use in the war. U.S. aircraft had patrolled northern Iraq from Incirlik for over a decade.

Washington is reassessing the deployment of its forces worldwide, and an official said any new request to base fighter aircraft at Incirlik was unlikely during the Bush visit.

Both sides have worked hard to improve relations. Sunday's talks between Erdogan and Bush will be their third meeting this year.

But that improvement has yet to trickle down to the streets.

Turkish newspapers are filled with reports of how the U.S. military is bogged down in Iraq and Iraqi civilians are suffering.

Many Turks are also angry that Washington is not doing more to crack down on Kurdish guerrillas.

"The government is quite determined to carry on," said Kohen, the columnist. "The sympathy of the people is something different."

"America has to restore its image all over the world, not only in Turkey," said Mercan. "President Bush has to do some PR."

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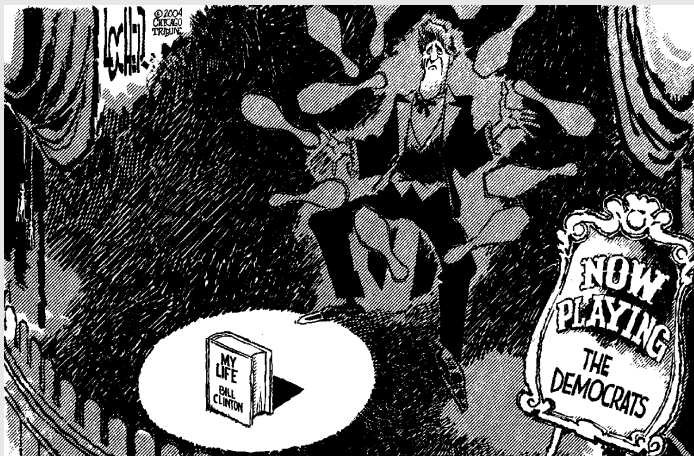
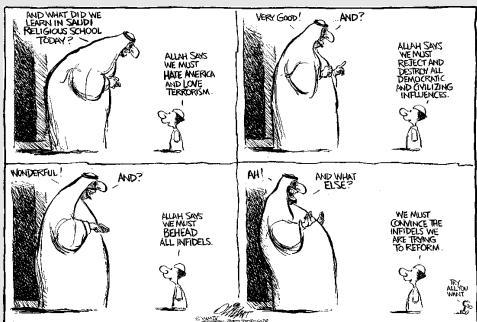
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Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



Stolen wheelchair

NY GLOVERSVILLE — Two men are in jail after pleading guilty to stealing a wheelchair from a 6-year-old who suffers from cerebral palsy.

Kenneth Teeling, 35, and Duane Teeling, 40, accepted a plea deal that puts them behind bars for 90 days. Duane Teeling will also have to perform 150 hours of community service. Melissa Wheeler, 40, was also charged but pleaded innocent. She will return to court in July.

Holly TenEyck's purple and black wheelchair was stolen off her front lawn in April, while the girl's mother carried her into their home after school.

Man killed in driveway

WV SHEPHERDSTOWN — A man who apparently was pinned by a van he was working on lay dead in his driveway for up to five days before a neighbor noticed him, police said.

Allan P. Burfoot, 57, was found Sunday morning. State Police Trooper H.D. Heil said.

The parking brake wasn't on and the vehicle wasn't in gear, and it apparently rolled onto him" as he worked on the vehicle, Heil said. He was pinned under the front passenger side tire, he said.

Checking messages on Burfoot's answering machine, investigators believe he was pinned as early as Wednesday, Heil said. Burfoot's closest relative, a sister, lives out of state.

Surprise comments

TX EDINBURG — Faculty and news reporters who tuned into the University of Texas-Pan American's announcement of a new campus president got an earful when a technician pressed a button too early.

"I think we need a new provost," Blandina Cardenas is heard telling the UT System Regents during a live Internet broadcast Monday night, shortly before she was named president. "The problem is, how much backup do I have and how quickly can I move to make that change?"

Provost Rodolfo Arevalo told The (McAllen) Monitor in Wednesday's editions that he had not yet talked with Cardenas about the broadcast, but was not holding it against her.

"Probably, just in general terms, I think her take on it was the tail end on a much larger discussion," Arevalo said.

A university spokeswoman said Cardenas was not available for comment Wednesday.

State Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, D-McAllen, was present when the comments were aired and said they indicated she would be a strong president.

Flower smells like ...

CT STORRS — A giant exotic plant that has not bloomed in the Northeast in more than 60 years is ready to flower at the University of Connecticut's greenhouse. The "corpse flower" has the odor of 3-day-old road kill, and UConn botanists couldn't be more



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

excited.

Once open, the spiked, bright red bloom even resembles rotting meat, a veritable welcome mat for the insects that pollinate it — flies and carrion beetles.

"It looks like something has died. It smells like something has died. It has some of the same chemicals that dead bodies produce," UConn research assistant Matthew Opel said Tuesday.

The corpse flower (Amorphophallus titanum) at UConn was planted 10 years ago and was part of a group of seeds brought to the United States from its native Sumatra by botanical explorer James Symon.

The plant is expected to blossom in the next five to six days.

Wright brothers auction

OH DAYTON — A New Hampshire auction company will sell a letter in which Orville Wright expresses disappointment over the Smithsonian Institution's failure to display the 1903 flyer he built with his brother.

Wright was 54 when he wrote the letter in 1925 to George Kunz, president of a New York "Museum of the Peaceful Arts," apparently one of the many institutions seeking to display the plane.

The Wright brothers were upset with the Smithsonian's support of rival aviator Samuel Langley, its assistant secretary, and the institution's failure to credit the Dayton natives' flights as the world's first.

Langley received \$50,000 from the Smithsonian to build a ma-

chine that inched above the Potomac River and crashed into the water on Dec. 8, 1903, nine days before the Wrights succeeded at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

"... [T]he Smithsonian has not cared to exhibit our plane of 1903, which was the first to fly, because it would overshadow the 1903 Langley machine, which failed to fly," Wright wrote in the typed, one-page letter.

Bob Eaton, president of R&R Auction of Bedford, N.H., said the letter came from "a collector of aviation material in Ohio."

The letter carries a minimum bid of \$2,000 and is expected to bring \$4,000 to \$6,000 at auction Wednesday, Eaton said.

Girls protest slots

WV WEIRTON — It was bad enough when Bruster's ice cream shop became a gambling parlor. But when both Dairy Queens closed to make way for mini casinos, two 11-year-old girls had to act.

Dazja Gianessi and Maya Carey crafted a simple petition, asking people to help bring ice cream back to this town. Unexpectedly, it has begun to galvanize a long-simmering antigambling backlash.

Weirton, with just 20,000 residents, has the state's highest concentration of video poker bars, with 81 establishments. Maya said grown-ups seem to have forgotten that children need places to hang out, too.

"I think they're just being selfish, worrying about themselves," she said. "They don't think children will do anything about it."

But in two weeks, the girls have collected nearly 600 signatures, including that of Gov. Bob Wise (No. 241).

It was Wise, however, who pushed for the Limited Video Lottery Act of 2001, which allows 9,000 video poker machines in bars, private clubs and other adult settings.

Graduation requirements

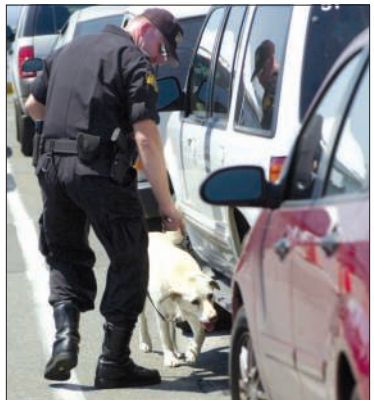
HI HONOLULU — Public high school students would have to pass two additional courses in either foreign language, fine arts or vocational education in order to graduate under a proposal scheduled for a final vote by the state Board of Education.

If approved by the board at its regular meeting Thursday at Konaheana High School on the Big Island, Hawaii would join only a handful of states requiring students to complete 24 credits for graduation.

"The impetus behind it is to raise the expectations of the kids and raise the rigor of the high school curriculum," said Tony Calabrese, director of the instructional services branch of the Department of Education.

A task force charged with studying the state's graduation standards originally recommended that the two courses replace physical education and social studies requirements as part of an effort to make foreign language, fine arts, or vocational education mandatory, rather than optional.

If approved, the plan would take effect in the 2006-07 school year, for students graduating in 2010.



Good dog!

Bill Henkel, of the Washington State Patrol K-9 unit, leads his dog Butch along a string of cars in line for the ferry at Colman Dock in Seattle.



Are we there yet?

Driver Rex Gardner of Stillwell, Kan., and navigator Gary Kuck of Lincoln, Neb., pull into Ottawa, Kan., in a 1934 Ford Indy car.



Carrying a torch

Olympic bobsled gold medalist Vonneta Flowers runs through a cheering crowd as she carries the Olympic torch through Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta.



Bombs bursting

The Freedom Festival fireworks show lights up the Detroit River and skyline as seen from Windsor, Ontario.



Monster rally

Motorcycle enthusiasts cruise the rows of parked motorcycles at Wiers Beach in Laconia, N.H., during Laconia Bike Week.



Coming to a rest

hit Amarillo, Texas, the day before.

A trailer rests atop of a boat after it was blown over during a storm that



Top hot dog

Green Bay Packers' wide receiver Javon Walker wears the No. 4 hot dog costume as he races to the finish line in front of No. 1 bratwurst during the sausage race at a Milwaukee Brewers game.



Low down and dirty

Barbara and Larry Wapensky, of Denver, watch from a temporary boat ramp as a boat passes at the Frisco Bay Marina on Lake Dillon near Frisco, Colo. Even though the water is 4 feet below normal for this time of the year, the marina is fully operational.

Hospital lock scam

NY MANHASSET — Five people have been arrested in an alleged scheme to steal \$6 million from a Long Island hospital by submitting fraudulent bills for locks and lock parts, police said.

Among those arrested were Raymond Orlando, 46, of Melville, who was the 18-year locksmith foreman for North Shore University Hospital, Nassau County Police said in a news release.

Police said Orlando and Roy Brown, 54, of Plainview, formed businesses they used to submit phony invoice receipts for lock parts and tubes for pneumatic locks.

A maintenance worker or foreman would allegedly ask for a purchase requisition for the hardware, getting approval from supervision in the maintenance department. Bills for the parts would then be submitted to the hospital on behalf of the fake businesses, police said.

Stalking problem

NY CHEEKTOWAGA — A man convicted of stalking a woman is now also accused of stalking a police lieutenant, a prosecutor and two judges.

FBI agents raided John Mikula's home and said they found guns, materials that could be used to make bombs and maps showing home addresses of the town employees.

Investigators said they also found evidence that Mikula, 41, is associated with the Army of God, a group that advocates violence against abortion providers. Erie County District Attorney Frank Clark said Mikula had written letters warning people that he could soon be shot dead in a shootout with police.

Traffic stop horror

MI LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP — A woman pulled over by a sheriff's deputy for speeding was killed early Wednesday when a tractor-trailer plowed into both of their stopped vehicles, police said.

The deputy suffered minor injuries in the accident on Interstate 196 in northern Michigan.

The truck then ran into Emily Charlyn Van Dyke's car and dragged the car beneath its chassis into the ditch, where both vehicles caught fire.

The crash shut down a stretch of the interstate for about seven hours.

Family rampage

NV SILVER SPRINGS — Authorities are investigating whether a man sexually abused his three daughters after he shot his estranged wife in the face and kidnapped the teenagers at gunpoint.

One of the girls fatally shot Walter N. Ball on Wednesday night as he slept in his car about 30 miles east of Carson City, police said. He apparently had been drinking heavily.

The girls, ages 13, 16 and 19, led officers to the body, Lyon County Sheriff's Capt. Jeff Page said.

Page said no charges were pending against the girls.

Free ride southbound

NH CONCORD — Southbound drivers on Interstate 95 will get a free ride starting next

week, while northbound drivers will pay double tolls. The Executive Council approved the one-way tolls for 21 weeks starting Wednesday and running through Oct. 21. Gov. Craig Benson is a strong advocate of the one-way tolls to reduce traffic backups during the busy summer and fall tourism seasons.

Rehab assignment

GA AUGUSTA — Twelve active-duty members of the military are undergoing rehabilitation at a new unit of the Augusta Veterans Affairs hospital. The 60-bed facility is designed to smooth the transition of service members between the Defense Department and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Jim Trusley III, director of the Augusta VA hospital, says the unit is the first transitional facility of its kind in the VA system.

Audobon connection

KY HENDERSON — The City Commission has formed a sister-city relationship with the town in France where wildlife artist John James Audubon spent his boyhood. The small town of Coueron is located on the Loire River, much like Henderson borders the Ohio River. Audubon lived in Henderson the longest during his adulthood.

Farm tax credits

MO ST. JOSEPH — Gov. Bob Holden signed a package of agriculture bills designed to make certain tax credits more valuable for farmers. The credits could be taken on a quarterly basis and could be applied against taxes owed for the previous three years. Tax credits could also be carried forward five years.

Holden said the measures highlight state efforts to help Missouri's rural communities.

Sewer power

OH CLEVELAND — The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District plans to spend nearly \$30 million on backup power to ensure it can adequately treat sewage during a blackout. The blackout last August caused two of the district's three plants to bypass full treatment.

An estimated 65 million gallons of untreated and partially treated sewage were dumped into the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie.

Saving lots of green

NH College officials from around New England and eastern Canada are looking at saving energy to help the environment and their budgets.

"It's not a bad thing to admit that much of the drive for energy conservation comes from our need to be fiscally responsible," UNH President Ann Weaver Hart said at a conference on Friday.

She addressed about 60 planners at the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers College and University Climate Change Symposium.

The symposium was part of a partnership in which about 80 colleges in New England and Eastern Canada pledged this year to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, according to John Shea of the governors' group.

Photos and stories from wire reports



AFRICA

| | HI | LO | | HI | LO |
|-----------|----|----|-----------|----|----|
| Cape Town | 58 | 40 | Mogadishu | 81 | 73 |
| Dakar | 82 | 72 | Nairobi | 71 | 54 |
| Freetown | 85 | 73 | Rabat | 86 | 68 |
| Kinshasa | 80 | 66 | Tripoli | 97 | 68 |

THE WORLD

| | HI | LO | | HI | LO |
|-----------|-----|----|-------------|-----|----|
| Amsterdam | 69 | 55 | Manila | 87 | 71 |
| Bahrain | 110 | 85 | Mexico City | 72 | 55 |
| Beijing | 88 | 68 | Montreal | 67 | 55 |
| Beirut | 81 | 70 | Riyadh | 110 | 88 |
| Bermuda | 84 | 75 | Rio de Jan | 82 | 65 |
| Caracas | 82 | 66 | Seoul | 83 | 65 |
| Helsinki | 68 | 52 | Sofia | 71 | 55 |
| Hong Kong | 90 | 81 | Sydney | 59 | 45 |
| Lisbon | 91 | 66 | Tokyo | 80 | 65 |

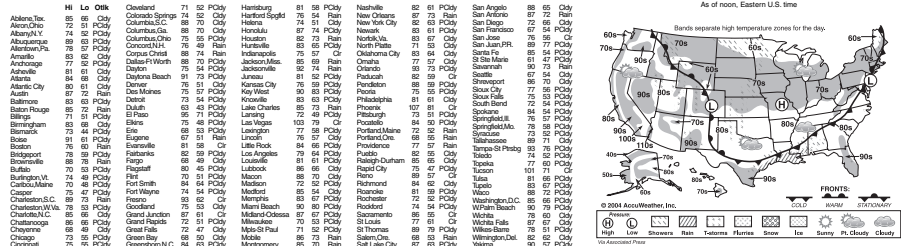
TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

| HI | LO | OK | | | |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Alabama | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Alaska | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Arizona | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Arkansas | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| California | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Colorado | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Connecticut | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Delaware | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| District of Columbia | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Florida | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Georgia | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Hawaii | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Idaho | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Illinois | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Indiana | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Iowa | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Kansas | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Kentucky | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Louisiana | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Maine | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Maryland | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Massachusetts | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Michigan | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
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| Nebraska | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
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| New York | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
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| Oregon | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Pennsylvania | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Rhode Island | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| South Carolina | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| South Dakota | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Tennessee | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Texas | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Utah | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Vermont | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Virginia | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Washington | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| West Virginia | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Wisconsin | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |
| Wyoming | 25 | 65 | 65 | 72 | 72 |

MIDEAST



THE UNITED STATES TODAY



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly to mostly cloudy with rainshowers tomorrow morning. Highs in the lower 70s and lows in the 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers, becoming partly cloudy in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 60s to the lower 70s and lows in the 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy with rainshowers tomorrow morning. Highs in the upper 70s to lower 80s and lows in the 50s.

France: Mostly cloudy with morning rainshowers tomorrow and partly cloudy in the afternoon. Highs in the mid- to upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s to mid-60s.

Northern Germany: Partly cloudy, becoming mostly cloudy tomorrow morning. Highs in the upper 60s to upper 70s and lows in the upper 40s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with highs in the lower 70s and lows in the 50s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy with highs in the mid-70s and lows in the lower 50s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy with afternoon thunderstorms and morning fog. Highs in the mid to upper 70s and lows in the 50s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy with highs in the mid to upper 80s and lows in the mid- to upper 50s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy with afternoon thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s and lows in the upper 50s.

Norway: Partly cloudy, becoming mostly cloudy tomorrow morning. Rain showers tomorrow. Highs in the 60s and lows in the lower 50s.



Poland: Partly cloudy with sunny skies. Highs in the 90s to the west and lower 80s in the east with some rain in the west.

Turkey: Partly cloudy with morning rainshowers in the north to mid-northeast. Highs in the upper 70s to mid-80s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home page at <https://ows.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

| | Today | Tomorrow |
|---------------------|-------|----------|
| Sunrise (London) | 0437 | 0437 |
| Sunrise (Frankfurt) | 0518 | 0518 |
| Sunset (London) | 2124 | 2124 |
| Sunset (Frankfurt) | 2139 | 2139 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| First qtr. | Full moon | Last qtr. | New moon |

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STARS & STRIPES.

Casey's D.C. skills might help Iraq job

General tapped as commander of U.S. forces in Iraq could calm Congress, boost Baghdad authority

BY BRADLEY GRAHAM

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — His household goods had just been moved into the renovated residence of the vice chief of staff of the Army five weeks ago when Gen. George W. Casey Jr. received word that he was likely headed for a new assignment: commander of all U.S. forces in Iraq.

The sudden shift — triggered by the prison abuse scandal, which upset an earlier plan to install a different new commander in Iraq — has left Casey scrambling to prepare for the job.

Thursday, at a congressional hearing on his nomination, the general deferred answers to a number of central questions about the Iraq mission.

Will he have enough U.S. troops to deal with the surging violence? How will he coordinate with Iraqi authorities after the transfer of limited authority next week? What role will private security contractors continue to play? Casey promised to get back to Congress when his views are more informed by experience. A soft-spoken, genial officer accustomed to dealing with lawmakers, Casey is a respected figure on Capitol Hill, and senators appeared willing to cut him some slack until he takes up his new post. Several even sounded relieved that someone such as Casey was willing to take the assignment.

"I don't know of a tougher job in regards to our national security than the one you're assuming," Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., told him.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., citing the rising sophistication of the insurgency in Iraq and the inability so far of U.S. and Iraqi forces to secure the country's borders, impressed on Casey that the situation had reached "a very, very critical" moment. "Success or failure will be dictated by what happens in the next few months," McCain said.

He urged Casey to make his own assessment of troop levels and other needs "as quickly as possible." He cautioned against making promises that cannot be delivered, noting that statements by commanders of his kind threatening to subdue the city of Fallujah or kill or capture the radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr never



Army vice chief of staff General George Casey appears before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Capitol Hill on Thursday, on his nomination to be commander of the multinational force in Iraq.

came to pass.

Several senators also took the occasion to express frustration at what they said has been a lack of candor on the part of the Bush administration about events in Iraq. They voiced hope that Casey would give them what Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., the ranking minority member, called "the unvarnished facts," even if it meant going against the administration's official line.

Casey was not an obvious choice for the Iraq job. Apart from a stint as a U.N. military observer in Cairo in 1981, the general has spent little time in the Middle East. He also has no combat experience.

But Casey receives high marks from many active and retired officers for his thoughtfulness, calm temperament and skill in dealing with Washington and international bureaucracies.

In an interview, Casey cited a lifelong interest in international affairs, stretching back to his undergraduate days at Georgetown

University's School of Foreign Service in 1970. Time spent as a senior officer in the 1980s sorting out the international jumble in Bosnia and Kosovo has helped prepare him for the political complexities and military challenges of Iraq, he said.

"I've learned how to think competitively and how to operate against a thinking enemy, and that has great carry-over into combat operations."

Gen. George W. Casey Jr.

new commander of U.S. forces in Iraq

More recent stints at the upper reaches of the Pentagon's Joint Staff and the Army have made him very comfortable dealing at the national level and have given him a good understanding of how to coordinate matters between the Pentagon and State Department, he added.

In preparing for Iraq, Casey said he has talked at length with

Ambassador John Negroponte, who will be heading the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

"We have a strong feeling that this needs to be one team, one mission," Casey said.

As for his lack of combat experience, he said that did not concern him.

"I've learned how to think competitively and how to operate against a thinking enemy, and that has great carry-over into combat operations," Casey said.

Casey had not intended to make a career of the military. His father, Maj. Gen. George W. Casey Sr., died in a helicopter crash in Vietnam in 1970 — the year Casey graduated from Georgetown.

Although Casey was commissioned a second lieutenant after graduation, he planned to stay in the Army two years before entering law school. A subsequent decision to extend his military duty for a year to attend airborne school took Casey to Germany, an experience he enjoyed. He has re-

Casey's profile

Title: Vice chief of staff, Army

Nominated: Commander, Multinational Force-Iraq

Education: Bachelor's degree, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service; master's in international relations, University of Denver.

Age: 55

Family: Married, two sons, five grandchildren

Career highlights: Director, Joint Staff, Pentagon; head of plans and policy directorate, Joint Staff, commander, Joint Warfighting Center, commander, 1st Armored Division

Pastimes: Grandchildren, reading, exercising. Rates himself "poor" at golf but "pretty good" at skiing and tennis.

— The Washington Post

remained in the Army ever since.

As a four-star general, Casey will bring greater authority to the Baghdad assignment than the three-star officer he is replacing, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez. The move is intended partly to consolidate U.S. troops under one command. It also is meant to enable Gen. John Abizaid, head of U.S. Central Command, who has responsibility for all U.S. troops in the Middle East, to spend more time on other matters.

In testimony Thursday, Casey rejected the notion that U.S. troops in Iraq, after the handover of limited authority next week, would be shifting from an offensive to a defensive posture. "We have to maintain an offensive mind-set," he told the senators.

He predicted that intensified efforts to train and equip Iraq's fledgling security forces should begin yielding visible results in a few months, adding that the new emphasis will be more on the quality of the forces, not the quantity.

Asked about a possible role for NATO forces, Casey said he would welcome their assistance in training Iraqi troops. What he needs most from the international community, he said, is a brigade-sized force — about 5,000 soldiers — to ensure security for the U.N. mission charged with helping set up national elections next year.

Vermont company gets order for 85,000 more helmets

The Associated Press

NEWPORT, Vt. — A company that makes state-of-the-art helmets for the military has won a \$26 million contract to make 85,000 more of the helmets that have been credited with saving the lives of many servicemen.

The MSA Gallet factory has now received nearly \$100 million

Factory's headgear credited with saving lives in Iraq, Afghanistan

in contracts for the design and production of 315,000 helmets and related products, said Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy.

The most recent appointment was contained in the 2004 defense budget, Leahy said.

"These helmets have proved their value on the battlefield, and

the people of MSA have proved their dependability in producing them," said Leahy.

"The helmets are strong and reliable. Our combat troops are thankful for the skill and dedication that went into designing them and that goes into manufacturing thousands of helmets each

month."

MSA now employs 118 people, who work three shifts five days a week, said Plant Manager Rudy Chase.

"We've basically doubled in nine months," said Chase.

But Chase said he didn't think any additional employees would

be needed to meet the latest contract.

The headgear produced in Newport is known as the Advanced Combat Helmet. At first the helmets were produced for Special Operations troops and elite airborne units. Now the Pentagon is issuing them to all soldiers.

The helmet has been credited with saving several lives in fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

FACES 'N' PLACES

Springsteen won't play for political party

A concert promoter and Democratic activist is gathering signatures in an effort to draft **Bruce Springsteen** for a benefit concert to oppose President Bush's re-election bid.



Springsteen

Promoter **Andrew Rasiej** wants to hold the event at **Giants Stadium** on Sept. 1, during the Republican National Convention in New York.

He said it's contingent on Springsteen's agreeing to be there, which he hopes would lead other artists to join in.

A Springsteen spokeswoman, however, said he will not play.

"Bruce Springsteen will not be performing at any events tied to the Republican or Democratic conventions," Marilyn Laverty said from Newark, N.J.

Rasiej has served as technology adviser to former Democratic presidential candidate **Howard Dean**.

Bucking the unusual baby name trend

Given the celebrity trend of unusual baby names such as **Apple** and **Coco**, how did "Crossing Jordan" star **Jill Hennessy** and her husband, actor **Paolo Mastropietro**, come up with the name **Marco** for their son?

"I'm sorry, it was the only name that came to us," the 34-year-old actress told *People* magazine from New York. "He needed an Italian name to go with [Mastropietro]. But it's very phonetic. No one's going to mess it up."

Hennessy and Mastropietro were married in October 2000. Marco was born in September 2003.

Hennessy plays medical examiner **Dr. Jordan Cavanaugh** on NBC's "Crossing Jordan." She starred in NBC's "Law & Order" from 1993-96.



Hennessy

Elton John performs songs for 'Billy Elliot'

Elton John performed some of the songs he's written for "Billy Elliot: The Musical" during a preview in London.

The musical, directed by **Stephen Daldry**, will open at the **Victoria Palace Theatre** on March 11, 2005, according to the musical's Web site.

John said he was deeply moved when he saw Daldry's film about a young boy in a mining town who bucks tradition to study ballet.

"I was sobbing in my seat and had to be carted out by three people," said the 57-year-old pop star, who previewed his songs Tuesday.

Daldry received an Oscar nomination for the 2000 film on which the musical is based.



John

Ashley Judd: the new face of beauty

Ashley Judd, star of the upcoming film "De-Lovely," has been signed as the spokeswoman for American Beauty, BeautyBank's new skin-care and cosmetics brand.

Judd, 36, co-stars with **Kevin Kline** in the new **Irwin Winkler** movie on the life of **Cole Porter**. The film is scheduled for limited release on July 2.

"Ashley Judd embodies all of the qualities that define our new brand, American Beauty," William Lauder, chief operating officer of The Estee Lauder Companies, said in a statement Wednesday in New York.

BeautyBank is a division of The Estee Lauder Companies.

"Ms. Judd is glamorous, elegant, intelligent while being warm and accessible and we're confident that women will connect with her," Lauder said.

American Beauty will be in selected stores in October, and will be available nationwide next fall, the company said.



Judd

Casting calls hit campus



THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

Imnan Nazemzadeh, left, and **Candice Patton**, both Southern Methodist University students, won a nationwide contest on CBS's "The Early Show" to receive multiple-episode acting contracts on the soap opera "The Young and the Restless."

Soap opera adds two Southern Methodist students to cast

BY DARLA ATLAS

The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS

To the legions of people hoping to become professional actors, **Imnan Nazemzadeh** and **Candice Patton**'s story might give them faith that it's possible. Or it'll make them seethe with envy.

In what certainly qualifies as a big break, Patton and Nazemzadeh won a nationwide contest on CBS's "The Early Show" to receive multiple-episode acting contracts on "The Young and the Restless."

And these aren't walk-on parts as waiters or passers-by; they'll be full-fledged characters. Their roles are being written for them now, with filming set to begin in the fall.

Their road to stardom began in April, when the soap's reps held casting calls at five campuses around the country, including Southern Methodist University. Patton, a theater major who just finished her freshman year, read about the auditions in the school newspaper.

"I decided I really didn't want to go to math that day, so I figured I'd skip and go on over there," she said. "It was worth a shot."

Nazemzadeh, who graduated in May with a theater degree, said he, too, was nonchalant about the whole thing, but at the urging of a friend, he went.

Each hopeful had a short time, about five seconds, to make an impression on Y&R casting director **Marnie Saita**. Nazemzadeh, 23, decided to set himself apart.

"I said, 'You are really, really gorgeous; I think I have a crush on you. Maybe I can take you to dinner while you're here?' I was being really obnoxious," he admitted with a laugh. But it worked; he, Patton and about 10 others were called back later that day to read a scene. Both felt they landed it.

"I walked away feeling this was the best callback I'd ever done," said Nazemzadeh, whose career has already begun to take off. He recently shot scenes for the locally filmed pilot of the NBC show "LAX," starring **Heather Locklear** and **Blair Underwood**, and last week landed a role in "Sin City," now being shot in Austin and starring **Bruce Willis**, **Elijah Wood**, **Benicio Del Toro** and other big names.

For the soap gig, he and Patton were told to watch "The Early Show" on the morning of May 14 to find out whether they'd been chosen as finalists from their school.

Patton, 18, waited "in agony," but halfway through the show, "one of my friends in Orlando called, screaming, 'Oh my God, oh my God!'" she recalled. "I said, 'Don't say anything! We're an hour behind you guys.' They were like, 'Oh, OK, we'll call you later.' So that kind of ruined the surprise."

Nazemzadeh was in agony for a different reason that morning.

"I was sitting at home, hung over," he said. "A friend called and said, 'Hey, Imnan, you got it.'" The following week, the two flew to New York to film scenes with **Melody Thomas Scott**, who plays **Nikki Reed Newman**, and **Christian LeBlanc**, who plays **Michael Baldwin**. It was then up to the viewers to choose the top man and woman from the 10 finalists.

Patton's strategy for winning included marketing herself with fliers around campus.

"I felt kind of like a politician," she said. Nazemzadeh relied on mass e-mails "and a lot of support from the Persian people in the community."

They then waited for the fateful call. Patton, who had flown to New York on May 21 for her "Early Show" audition, flew back that day.

The next night, she was out listening to her boyfriend's band play and didn't hear her phone ring. Listening to her messages later, the show's producer said, "I hope you get this call before 11 a.m. tomorrow, because that's when your flight is to New York. You won." Nazemzadeh said he took his news of winning calmly, "but my mom and brother were screaming, jumping up and down."

The two, who will have separate story lines on the soap, could work for a few weeks, a few months or longer.

"If the fans really like a character," Patton said, "it has everything to do with them staying on."

For now, both are thrilled for the opportunity, as are their families. Patton, who grew up in a Dallas suburb, describes her parents as "a little stage mom and dad."

"My dad is already talking about being my agent, manager and bodyguard. But he wants 20 percent for each," she said.

Horoscope

The moon goes void of course in the afternoon, making it harder to tap into strong emotions and easier to entertain different viewpoints.

How can we make a decision when so many good reasons support both sides? The Cancer sun throws a light on domestic issues. It's likely to start a home-improvement list, financial plan or relationship map.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(June 26). Your personality is astounding this year, and because of it, you attract abundance in every area of your life, most importantly in the area of love and relationships. Next month, you'll have competition in the career department, but it's overcome if you're focused on beating your own records. You've got a tight connection with Leo and Pisces. Your lucky numbers are: 36, 1, 11, 50 and 19.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You enjoy the company of a special person and feel a special zest for life when he or she is around. The attraction is powerful, but don't let it override your own inner chorus. Healthy living is an interest worth following.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Make sure your choices are supporting your true self. You deserve the best in life, so what is standing between you and that special something? Ask for workable solutions, and a few will drop seemingly from the sky.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You may start out feeling like you can't win, but you wind up feeling like you just did. There are minor eruptions as family members or friends squabble over the dumbest stuff. You know when to contribute and when to stay out.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

The role you play in the big picture becomes clear. If you don't like it, the changes start now. You need time to yourself. Take as much as you can without letting children go neglected. An older family member would love to help you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

The thing about a plan is, it's seldom

right the first time. You've got to review it, revise it and work it several times before it's a genius situation, but you're in this for the long haul. Being close to exciting and inspirational people helps.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Loved ones need to be understood and will bend over backward for someone who just listens. Lucky for you, this is your specialty. Serious discussion leads you to rediscover deep, abiding passion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

It feels fantastic to get down to business. Self-expression has more to do with the goals you choose to pursue now than what you have to say. Let the voice mail answer some calls while you work on your to-do list.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You're obsessed with unraveling a mystery! Twists and turns in the plot keep things interesting, so try not to be too frustrated by the pursuit. It turns better than actually getting what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You find a niche and fill it with a brilliant idea. Extra money is best spent on an educational investment or one having to do with technological advance. Also favored: new sports, expeditions, classes and cultural events.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Money-making ideas are featured, and it's a task to brainstorm with your intelligent friends (like Aquarius). You love mixing business with pleasure this way. One caution, though: Avoid re-inventing the wheel. Do your research.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Simple words around you make it harder than it should be. Step back, and observe for a while before getting involved. Be careful not to dominate what one out to be a cooperative situation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You'll be dishing out some of your tough love. It's challenging to know when to help and when to lead strictly by example. You're incredibly wise, and you'll be able to figure this one out like nobody before you could.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



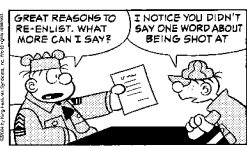
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



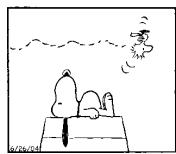
Red and Rover



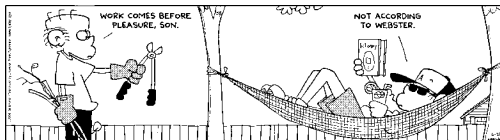
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



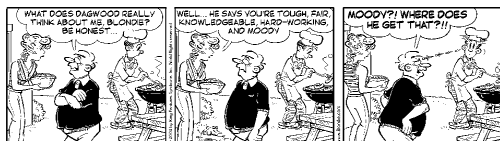
Baby Blues



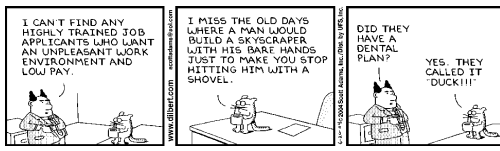
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



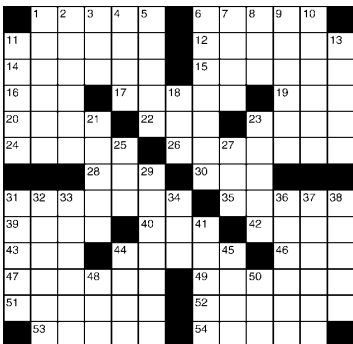
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Doubled
- 6 Rascally sort
- 11 Demosthenes, e.g.
- 12 Lives up to
- 14 Actress/singer Dixie
- 15 O. Henry-esque
- 16 Belly, for short
- 17 Authoritative
- 19 Stephen of "The Crying Game"
- 20 Ostriches' kin
- 22 St. Louis athlete
- 23 D.C. newspaper
- 24 Dwindled down
- 26 "...I've had a few,..."
- 28 Pitch
- 30 Carnival site
- 31 Type of letter
- 35 Actor Fernando
- 39 Check
- 40 Solidify
- 42 "Mondo Cane" theme
- 43 Raw rock
- 44 Northern hemisphere?
- 46 One (Pref.)
- 47 Plagiarize
- 49 "Home Improvement" neighbor
- 51 Holy
- 52 Maroon
- 53 Cautious
- 54 Tackled mugs

Down

- 1 Major shock
- 2 Rascally sort
- 3 Hirsute Addams
- 4 Dorm dweller
- 5 Foul-up
- 6 Subdued sparkle
- 7 Dagwood's boss's wife
- 8 "Can I take that as --?"
- 9 "Seven Year Itch" star
- 10 Sermon spouter
- 11 Square dance group
- 13 Sings like Ella
- 18 Needlesfish
- 21 Become established
- 23 Tourney format
- 25 Scoundrel
- 27 Hodges of baseball
- 29 Unkempt
- 31 Harvester's collection
- 32 Forward pass
- 33 Barbara Bush's maiden name
- 34 Marathon champ
- 36 Hair application
- 37 Maria's mister
- 38 Fishing net
- 41 Acting brothers
- 42 Roman road
- 45 Sty cry
- 48 Exist
- 50 Half of CIV

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-26

CRYPTOQUIP

CTV JRLVH JZ F TFOHQOVUV
EFLWZFUWCHOLN QIFLC
E WDC H VFIK M V

UJLDOYVHVY F MONRON.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A POOL PLAYER DECIDES TO TARGET HIS SHOT DIFFERENTLY, IS THAT A POCKET CHANGE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals L

Woman's fiancé lacking sex drive

Dear Abby: I'm engaged to a man who is a really good friend of mine. We have great times together watching movies or just hanging out.

The problem is I want to be intimate more than he does. He's a once-a-month kind of guy. I'm a once-a-day kind of girl. We have had many arguments about this because it seems like he doesn't want me. He says that's not true, that he is just tired, or stressed, etc. — the list is never-ending. We get along in every way except this one.

Am I being a baby, or is not the relationship for me?

— Needs More in Moline, Ill.

Dear Needs More: Much as you may wish otherwise, he is not the man for you. You have a larger appetite than he can cater to. Marrying him will only com-

pound your problem. Keep him as a friend if you can, but don't marry him.

Dear Abby: "Frank" and I have been married for three years, but we have known each other since 1994. When we first met, we both drank and partied a lot, but neither of us has had a drink in about three years.

Seven years ago, Frank started gambling. I used to do it for entertainment, but now he takes off for hours and won't answer his phone when he's at the casino. He has won thousands of dollars and lost more.

I have threatened Frank with divorce. I have told him to get out (but he won't leave), threatened to leave him (but I never have), and I have wept, begged,

Dear Abby



has won thousands of dollars and lost more.

Siblings need to confront issues

Dear Annie: My elderly parents just left after an eight-day visit. I live 100 miles away from my folks, and invited them to stay with us while their bathroom and kitchen are being renovated. After talking to my Mom, I learned that the dust from the construction was so suffocating that my parents spent most of their days sitting in their car in the driveway.

What upsets me is that I have a brother who lives two miles away from my parents and knew of their situation, yet never invited them to stay in his home for even a few hours during the day. I'm so mad at my brother right now I am seeing red.

It also became clear during their visit that my father is ready for a nursing home. He can't see, hear or walk well; he forgets where he is and falls down frequently. My father, of course, won't acknowledge his problems. My siblings know Dad is not doing well, but they think Mom

Annie's Mailbox



can manage him. In fact, I know that Mom can't take it much longer.

How do you get someone into a nursing home who doesn't want to be there? And should I call my brother and read him the riot act?

— Angry Sister in Wisconsin

Dear Angry Sister: The decision about your father's care

should be made by your mother, you and your siblings, together. It's possible your father can receive care at home, at least for a while. Your mother can contact Eldercare at 1-800-677-1116 or seek guidance from a specialist.

As for your brother, you can read him the riot act, but it probably won't make any difference. If the construction is still going on, why not call your brother and suggest outright that he invite Mom and Dad over for the afternoon on a specific day? He might surprise you.

and even tried to ignore it.

I stay because I love him and want to help him with his problem, but I don't want to wind up living in a tent.

Please help.

— Losing Big in Tucson

Dear Losing Big: Your concerns are legitimate. It's no coincidence that your husband got hooked on gambling after he stopped drinking. It appears he traded one addiction for another.

A group that might help you is Gam-Anon Family Groups, a 12-step fellowship for husbands, wives, relatives and friends of compulsive gamblers — people whose lives have been affected by their loved ones' problem. The phone number is 718-352-1671 and the Web site is www.gam-anon.org.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MERIG

GERAW

NARLAC

REFTER

www.jumble.com

Answer: AT " " " " (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: STAIR PIPER CACTUS MUSKET
Answer: Why the young quarterback made the varsity team — HE PASSED THE TEST

Family Circus

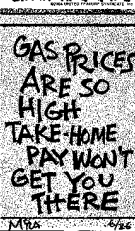


6-26

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www.familycircus.com

"... Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, life's a butterdream."

GRAFFITI

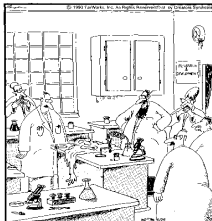


Dennis the Menace



* WILL YOU STILL BE ABLE TO PAY ME MY ALLOWANCE AFTER THIS GAME, DAD? *

The Far Side



* My God! It is Professor Dickel ... Weinberg, see if you can make out what the devil he was working on, and the rest of you get back to your stations. *

Non Sequitur



I KNOW, I KNOW... BUT I JUST LOVE GETTING THAT LOOK ON THEIR FACES WHEN THEY REACH FOR A WHISKEY

End of the road for Ivanisevic

Roddick, Serena advance; Coria, Myskina eliminated

BY STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Goran Ivanisevic ended his tennis career Friday, leaving Centre Court to a rousing standing ovation after losing in straight sets to the man who succeeded him as Wimbledon champion two years ago.

The 32-year-old Croat couldn't recreate the magic that carried him to the title as an unseeded wild card in 2001 and he fell 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 to Lleyton Hewitt.

"It was a victory for me to come here, play two matches and lose to a guy who is a Wimbledon champion and who is a great player," Ivanisevic said. "Everything was perfect — the weather, the crowd, the court. I just enjoyed myself."

A day after sister Venus was the victim of an umpire's mistake during a second-round defeat, top-seeded Serena Williams swept into the third round with a 6-0, 6-4 victory over French qualifier Stephanie Foretz.

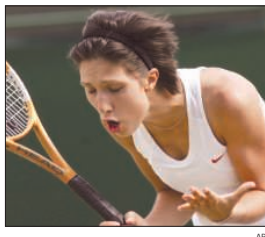
Andy Roddick advanced in straight sets Friday, beating 128th-ranked Alexander Peya of Austria, 6-3, 7-6 (2), 6-4, but he wasn't happy with his game.

"It was OK, I did enough to win," the second-seeded American said. "I still don't feel like I'm playing my best tennis. I have to pick up my game."

Ivanisevic, who had a 16th appearance at Wimbledon, French Open champion Anastasia Myskina and men's French Open runner-up Guillermo Coria going out.

No. 2-seeded Myskina was eliminated 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the third round by Amy Frazier, a 31-year-old American making her 16th appearance at Wimbledon. Frazier, ranked No. 36, hadn't advanced past the third round since 1996.

Three of the top six women's seeds have been



French Open champion Anastasia Myskina (above), the No. 2 seed, lost to 31-year-old American Amy Frazier 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the third round on Friday.

knocked out before the first weekend — Myskina, No. 3 Venus Williams and No. 6 Elena Dementieva, the losing finalist in the French Open.

In the biggest upset in the men's draw so far, third-seeded Coria lost in the second round to Germany's Florian Mayer, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. Coria, an Argentine clay-court player who had never won a match at Wimbledon before this year, had needed four days to compete a rain-delayed first-round match over Wesley Moodie on Thursday.

"I'm happy and I'm sad. I said that I have to leave, but I'm happy there's no more practice, no more questions from you guys. It's been a great 15 years," he said.

Despite passionate support from the fans, including shouts of "We love you, Goran," he never managed to mount a challenge in the third-round match against the No. 7-seeded Hewitt.

"The Australian ripped a forehand winner to end the match, the two players clashed at length at the net."

"I think he said something like, 'You killed me out there today,'" Hewitt said. "I said, 'You're a great champion' and it's been an honor playing against him out here on Centre Court."

See Page 25 for scores.

Leak of Montgomery's grand jury testimony deemed 'outrageous'

BY JOSH DUBOW
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Lawyers for the men indicted in the BALCO steroids scandal called the illegal release of sprinter Tim Montgomery's grand jury testimony "outrageous" and called for an investigation into the source of the leak.

The San Francisco Chronicle published details Thursday of the testimony in which Montgomery said he used performance-enhancing drugs and that BALCO founder Victor Conte told him he supplied baseball star Barry Bonds with steroids. The newspaper did not say how it obtained the information.

"I can tell you quite surely it didn't come from the defense," said Conte's attorney, Robert Holley. "The transcript is devastating to Victor Conte. He would never in a million years have given that out. The adverse publicity gives him much less of a chance at a fair trial."

Holley, Montgomery's lawyers and representatives of the other elite athletes and trainers implicated in the steroid probe were livid over the leak.

"I think it's outrageous," said Anna Ling, the attorney for Bonds' trainer, Greg Anderson, one of four men indicted in the BALCO scandal. "The secrecy of the grand jury system is a foundation of the criminal justice system."

Montgomery testified that he used human growth hormone and a then-undetectable steroid, and that the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative's founder, Victor Conte, told him he gave Bonds performance-enhancers, according to the Chronicle. The newspaper's report included direct quotes from Montgomery's testimony.

It is illegal to give grand jury testimony to the media. Kevin Ryan, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California, said his office was "looking into the matter."

Montgomery was one of several sprinters who received a letter Wednesday from the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency warning that they could face punishment for alleged steroid use. USADA plans to seek a lifetime ban for Montgomery, two sources familiar with USADA's warning letter told the AP on condition of anonymity.

He is expected to contest the ban in an arbitration hearing.

"No one can legally or legitimately have Tim's grand jury testimony, and if they think they have it, I would like to see it," Montgomery's attorney, Cristina Aguedas, said in a statement. "Otherwise, there's no way I can respond to these blind allegations."

Montgomery implicated Bonds, saying Conte told him he supplied Bonds with the same steroid Ben Johnson used before being disqualified in the 1988 Olympics. Montgomery also said Conte told him Bonds switched to an undetectable steroid in 2003, when baseball introduced its drug policy.

"That is absolutely untrue," Holley said. "Victor Conte has repeatedly told me from the beginning that he has never provided Barry Bonds with steroids, has never seen Barry Bonds take steroids or take any kind of performance-enhancing drugs."

Holley said Conte never would have confessed in Montgomery. He added that the sprinter split with Conte in 2001 and would have had no contact with him when he went on with Bonds in 2003.

Bonds has publicly denied using any performance-enhancing drugs and lashed out at Montgomery's founder, Victor Conte, told him he gave Bonds performance-enhancers, according to the Chronicle. The newspaper's report included direct quotes from Montgomery's testimony.

"It bothers me when people I don't even know are saying stuff about me," Bonds said, venting his anger in the San Francisco Giants' locker room. "Next time, if I know for sure so-and-so, they're going to talk to my lawyer from now on. I guarantee that."

AP Sports Writer Jane McAuliffe in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Empire who made scoring error in V. Williams' loss is punished

The Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — The chair umpire who awarded an extra point to Venus Williams' opponent during her second-round loss at Wimbledon won't work another match during the tournament.

"I have now discussed the incident with the chair umpire concerned, and we have agreed it will be in the best interests of both parties if he takes no further part in the event," tournament referee Alan Mills said Friday.

The umpire's office wouldn't comment.

Ted Watts of Britain mistakenly gave Karolina Sprem a point she didn't earn in the final tiebreaker of Thursday's 7-6 (5), 7-6 (6) upset of Williams in the 2000-01 Wimbledon champion.

The error made it 2-2 in the tiebreaker. Williams built a 6-3 edge but lost the next five points for a crucial loss at the All England Club since her 1997 debut.

"I'd like to think he didn't do it on purpose," Williams said. "I don't think one call makes a match."

He led the tiebreaker 2-1 when Sprem hit a first serve ruled wide by the line judge, who put her



Chair umpire Ted Watts, who gave Karolina Sprem a point she didn't earn in a second-set tiebreaker on Thursday, will not work another match in this year's tournament.

arm out and shouted, "Fault!"

Williams casually hit the ball over the net, and Sprem switched to a backhand into the open court. Williams stood still at the baseline, figuring it was time for a second serve.

But Watts announced the score as 2-2, the sort of mistake that occurs every so often but generally is noticed right away by one of

the players or another on-court official.

With the players apparently unaware Sprem received a point she shouldn't have, they lined up again in the same positions for what both thought was a second serve. Indeed, Sprem put a safe offering in, and Williams laced a backhand return winner. That should have made it 3-1 for Williams, but Watts called it 3-2.

"Unfortunately, the way it happened, Venus didn't query it at the time," Mills said. "They played point after point afterward, and the result, I'm afraid, stands as is."

Other top players thought Williams or Sprem should have questioned the call.

Serena Williams, who said she didn't watch her sister's match, questioned why Sprem didn't acknowledge the error at the time.

"As a competitor and as a professional, you should be able to distinguish between right and wrong," said the two-time defending champion. "I've never been in a situation like that before. I'm an honest individual. If I were in that situation, I know I'd make the right choice."

Sprem said Thursday she was confused but was focusing on the match.

Howell shoots 10-under 61

The Associated Press

POTOMAC, Md. — Charles Howell III shot a course-record 10-under 61, including a 28 on his final nine holes, to take a three-stroke lead Thursday in the Booz Allen Classic.

Howell went birdie-eagle on the third, par 5s and made six putts of 15 feet or longer en route to the lowest opening-round score this year on the PGA Tour. It was the second-lowest overall round of the season.

"It was one of those funny days where everything tends to work your way," said Howell. "The best you can do is get out of the way and let it continue to happen."

Howell's beating out perfect day with little wind and soft and smooth greens. The average

score was a course-record 70.897.

Rich Beem, the 1999 winner, and Olin Browne opened with 64s on the TPC at Avenel, and Jeff Sluman shot 65.

Saiki sets pace in LPGA event

PITTSFORD, N.Y. — Kim Saiki, winless in 13 years on the LPGA Tour, shot a bogey-free 66 to take a one-stroke lead over Candie Kung after the first round of the Rochester LPGA.

Hall of Famer Judy Inkster shot a 68 while Annika Sorenstam and defending champion Rachel Teichart led 72.

Fischer leads French Open

VERSAILLES, France — South Africa's Darren Fichard beat five of the last nine holes for a 67 to lead the French Open. Fichard beat out Wales' Ian Woosnam in the first round of the French Open.

Francis drops objections to McGrady deal

BY MIKE BRANOM
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Houston star Steve Francis has dropped his objections about being traded to Orlando, possibly paving the way for the Magic to send Tracy McGrady to the Rockets.

When news of a prospective deal broke earlier this week, Francis was adamant about not wanting to leave Houston. Orlando General Manager John Weisbord then put talks off until after the NBA Draft Thursday night.

But Francis' agent, Jeff Fried, told the Magic that there were no objections about coming to Orlando, and a call between Francis and Weisbord after Thursday's draft smoothed matters even more.

"I couldn't say we're really closer to anything, but this was a good first step," Weisbord said early Friday.

Fried said, "Steve was very impressed with the way John has a vision for the team, and the way he wants to win. It seems they really hit it off."

Houston Rockets owner Les Alexander says it's been a difficult week.

"We think the trade would be very beneficial to both our team and Orlando," he said.

Although Weisbord offered no specifics, the deal is believed to be McGrady, Juwan Howard and Tyronn Lee for Francis, Cuttino Mobley and Kelvin Cato.

McGrady, tired of carrying a mediocre franchise, has said he wants out of Orlando and vowed

to exercise the opt-out clause that goes into effect at the end of next season.

But the Magic decided to trade McGrady, the two-time scoring champion, because they don't want him to leave without the team receiving compensation.

After Francis' complaints were made public, Weisbord said he didn't want to let him lie, but he did appreciate the loyalty behind them.

"That's a better way to be than, 'I'll just fly to whatever place is next,'" Weisbord said.

Youth: St. Joseph's guard Nelson drops to No. 20

YOUTH, FROM BACK PAGE

"I was very surprised how far Jameer Nelson fell," Indiana Pacers President Larry Bird said. "I've always been a big fan of his. I'm still stunned he went that low."

The quest for youth brought an unfamiliar dynamic to a draft night that began with mystery, the identity of the Magic's pick a secret to almost everyone right up until Commissioner David Stern walked onstage at Madison Square Garden and delivered the news.

When the pick was announced, Howard's family members leaped out of their seats as Okafor's family applauded at the next table. The two players shook hands before Howard became the first player of the evening to be greeted by Stern.

"This feels so good," Howard said. "I want to go out there and prove all the doubters wrong."

A crowd of about 10,000 in Charlotte cheered when Okafor was not selected by the Magic, and owner Bob Johnson nodded his head and smiled. Fireworks then exploded, and orange and white confetti and streamers rained down on the cheering crowd.

Okafor's UConn teammate, Ben Gordon, went third to the Chicago Bulls, marking the second time in three years teammates have been selected second and

third. Jay Williams and Mike Dunleavy of Duke had that distinction in 2002.

High school senior Shaun Livingston of Peoria, Ill., went fourth to the Los Angeles Clippers, who had traded down from No. 2 earlier this week in a deal with the Bobcats.

Wisconsin guard Devin Harris was chosen fifth by Washington, which was picking for Dallas as part of a trade agreed to Wednesday night that sends Jerry Stackhouse and Christian Laettner to Dallas and Antawn Jamison to the Wizards. Stanford junior Josh Childress went at No. 6 to Atlanta, which had been trying to move into the No. 1 spot.

"This draft in particular, no one had any idea which way it would go," Childress said.

Duke freshman Luol Deng was picked seventh by Phoenix, which traded him to Chicago for a future first-round pick, cash and the rights to the 31st pick, Jackson Vroman. The Sun, who owned three first-round picks before dealing them all away, wanted to get rid of the No. 7 pick to clear enough salary cap room for a maximum salary offer to one of the top free agents, San Antonio, Denver and Atlanta also have enough room to offer a "max" contract to a free agent class headed by Kobe Bryant and Steve Nash.

Andris Biedrisins, an 18-year-old from Latvia, shed tears after he



Duke freshman Luol Deng, above, was chosen seventh by the Phoenix Suns, then traded to the Chicago Bulls for a future first-round pick, cash, and the rights to 31st pick, Jackson Vroman.

was selected 11th by Golden State, and Bakersfield, Calif., high schooler Robert Swift — a 7-footer — went next to Seattle.

Sebastian Telfair of Lincoln H.S. in New York City was chosen 15th by Portland, a higher-than-expected slot for one of the record nine eligible high school seniors. Miffed that he was not invited to sit in the "green room" offstage, Telfair celebrated at rapper Jay-Z's nightclub, not far from the Garden.

The Utah Jazz had three first-round picks, selecting Minnesota forward Kris Humphries (14th), Nevada guard Kris Snyder (16th) and 7-foot-5 Russian Pavel Podkolzine (21st), who was dealt to Dallas for a future first-round pick.

Boston also had three first-round picks, chose Mississippi high school senior Al Jefferson (18th), Seattle (South Kent Prep, Conn.) went to Atlanta, New Orleans and Miami with picks 17-19.

"I've seen them all," Miami President Pat Riley said. "And when you see them, these kids are developed. The bodies are cut."

"They have NBA bodies. They have somewhat of an NBA game. The only thing you ask yourself about is about experience. Until the NBA puts an age limit on this thing, you're still going to see people take these kids."

Notable second-round picks included Brazilian Anderson Varejao (No. 30, Orlando), 7-foot-3 Puerto Rican Peter John Ramos (No. 32, Washington), Duke senior Chris Duhon (No. 38, Chicago), 7-foot-3 South Korean center Ha Seung-jin (No. 46, Portland) and Gonzaga guard Blake Stepp (No. 58, Minnesota).

NBA Draft selections

Thursday

1. Orlando, Dwight Howard, f, South-west Atlanta Christian Academy.
2. Charlotte (from L.A. Clippers), Emeka Okafor, f-c, Connecticut.
3. Chicago, Ben Gordon, g, Connecticut.
4. L.A. Clippers, Josh Smith, f, Oak Hill Academy (Mount of Wilson, Va.).
5. Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala, f, Arizona.
6. Cleveland, Luke Ridnour, f, Oregon.
7. Phoenix, Luis Flores, a, Manhattan.
8. Toronto, Rafael Araújo, c, Brigham Young.
9. Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala, f, Arizona.
10. Cleveland, Luke Ridnour, f, Oregon.
11. Phoenix, Luis Flores, a, Manhattan.
12. Sacramento, Kevin Martin, f, Western Oregon.
13. Portland, Ed Miller, f, St. Benedict's Prep, Newark, N.J.
14. New Orleans, J.R. Smith, g, St. Benedict's Prep, Newark, N.J.
15. Miami, Dorell Wright, f, South Kent Prep, Conn.
16. Denver, Jameer Nelson, g, St. Joseph's.
17. Atlanta (from Milwaukee through Denver and Detroit), Josh Smith, f, Oak Hill Academy (Mount of Wilson, Va.).
18. New Orleans, J.R. Smith, g, St. Benedict's Prep, Newark, N.J.
19. Miami, Dorell Wright, f, South Kent Prep, Conn.
20. Cleveland, Jameer Nelson, g, St. Joseph's.
21. d-Utah (from Houston), Pavel Podkolzine, c, Varese (Italy).
22. d-New Jersey, Viktor Khryapava, f, CSKA Moscow (Russia).
23. Portland (from Memphis), Sergey Mikhlin, f, CSKA Moscow (Russia).
24. Boston (from Dallas), Delonte West, g, St. Joseph's.
25. Boston (from Detroit), Tony Allen, g, Oklahoma State.
26. Sacramento, Kevin Martin, f, Western Oregon.
27. L.A. Lakers, Sasha Vujacic, g, Snider Elementary (Culver City, Calif.).
28. San Antonio, Beno Udrih, g, Breil Milano (Italy).
29. Indiana, David Harrison, c, Colorado.

Note: Minnesota's first-round pick has been forfeited.

Second Round

30. Orlando, Anderson Varejao, f, F.C. Barcelona (Spain).
31. b-Chicago, Jackson Vroman, f-c, Iowa State.
32. Washington, Peter John Ramos, c, O'Fallon de Capoue (Pueblo Rico, N.J.).
33. Atlanta (from Philadelphia), Royal Ivey, g, Texas.
34. Toronto (from Toronto), Kris Duhon, g, Texas.
35. Seattle (from Cleveland), Albert Miralles, f, Ruseo (Spain).
36. p-Orlando (from Phoenix), Antonio Barks, g, Memphis.
37. Portland (from Philadelphia), Chris Duhon, g, Texas.
38. Seattle (from Toronto), Kris Duhon, g, Texas.
39. Seattle (from Cleveland), Albert Miralles, f, Ruseo (Spain).
40. Seattle (from Cleveland), Albert Miralles, f, Ruseo (Spain).
41. d-Atlanta (from Orlando), Kris Humphries, f, St. Joseph's Prep, Conn.
42. d-Atlanta (from Orlando), Kris Humphries, f, St. Joseph's Prep, Conn.
43. d-Atlanta (from Orlando), Kris Humphries, f, St. Joseph's Prep, Conn.
44. New Orleans, Tim Pickett, f, Florida State.
45. Charlotte (from Milwaukee), Bernard Robinson, f, Charlotte.
46. Portland, Ha Seung-jin, c, Yonsei U. (South Korea).
47. d-Portland, Ha Seung-jin, c, Yonsei U. (South Korea).
48. Sacramento (from Utah), Ricky Mearns, g, Morehead State.
49. Sacramento (from Utah), Ricky Mearns, g, Morehead State.
50. Sacramento (from Utah), Ricky Mearns, g, Morehead State.
51. d-Portland (from Memphis), Roman Sato, g, Xavier.
52. d-Portland (from Memphis), Roman Sato, g, Xavier.
53. d-Portland (from Memphis), Roman Sato, g, Xavier.
54. Detroit, Ricky Paulding, g, Missouri.
55. d-Houston (from Sacramento through Utah), Luis Flores, a, Manhattan.
56. L.A. Lakers, Marcus Douthett, f, Providence.
57. d-Atlanta, Sergei Karaulov, f, Yakutsk (Russia).
58. Minnesota, Blake Stepp, g, Gonzaga.
59. Indiana, Rashad Wright, g, Georgia.
60. d-Traded to Dallas along with Jerry Stackhouse and Christian Laettner for Antawn Jamison and cash consideration.
61. b-Traded to Chicago for F.C. Jackson and cash consideration.
62. d-Traded to Chicago for F.C. Jackson and cash consideration.
63. d-Traded to Chicago for F.C. Jackson and cash consideration.
64. d-Traded to Memphis for a future second-round pick and cash consideration.
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Cal State Fullerton joins Texas in final

BY ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Jason Windsor knows the Cal State Fullerton team that lost twice to Texas in March is nothing like the one the Longhorns will face in the College World Series finale.

Texas beat the Titans' top two pitchers, Windsor and Ricky Romero, at a time when Fullerton was in the midst of compiling a 15-16 record.

Fullerton's 4-0 victory over South Carolina on Thursday marked the Titans' 30th victory in 36 games.

"There isn't anything about us that is even similar to what we were back then," Windsor said. "A complete 180."

The best-of-three championship series begins Saturday.

The top-seeded Longhorns (58-13), playing for their second national championship in three years, advanced Wednesday with a 7-6 victory over Georgia.

Windsor, who has pitched 12 innings of shutout ball in the CWS, is a microcosm of the Titans' improvement. He has won 11 straight starts after opening the season 1-4.

The final series will pit Texas coach Augie Garrido against his old team and former top assistant, George Horton.

Garrido won 931 games and three national championships in two stints totaling 21 seasons at Fullerton.

Since taking over at Fullerton after Garrido left eight years ago, Horton has guided the Titans to four College World Series.

"With Coach Garrido and Coach Horton and their relationship over the years, there aren't going to be too many secrets," South Carolina coach Ray Tanner said. "I would not make a prediction, but I'll be watching. I expect it to be exciting baseball."

Horton's team was on the brink of reaching the championship round last season after winning its first two CWS games, but the Titans were eliminated after two losses to Stanford.

"I'm awful excited, obviously, because this is the first time a George Horton-led Titan team got into the championship series," Horton said. "I'm so proud of these guys, I can't believe it."

Scott Sarver pitched five-hit ball over six-plus innings, and Windsor finished to lead the Titans (45-22) to the finals for the first time since the 1995 team won the title.

Sarver, pitching for his third college in three years, was brilliant in only his second start of



Ronnie Prettyman, right, and Bobby Andrews celebrate Cal State Fullerton's 4-0 victory over South Carolina on Thursday. The Titans reached the CWS final for the first time since winning the national title in 1995.

the season. Sarver (3-2) struck out seven and walked two.

"What a wonderful experience for me and for our team," Sarver said. "My goal was to give our team a chance to win and try and go deep into the game so we didn't have to burn Windsor too much for the Texas series. I know he's a horse, and I'm sure he'll be ready to go."

Windsor, who earned his first career save, limited the Gamecocks to three hits and struck out the side in the ninth.

Fullerton became the first team

since Pepperdine in 1992 to record two shutouts in one College World Series and the first since California in 1957 to shut out the same opponent twice.

The Gamecocks became the first team to be shut out twice in the same CWS since Fullerton in 1982.

The Titans took a 3-0 lead in the fourth against Matt Campbell (10-6) on Felipe Garcia's double and singles by Bobby Andrews and Neil Walton. They added a run when Ronnie Prettyman homered in the seventh.

Ohio St. will not pursue Knight

From wire reports

DALLAS — Bob Knight is staying at Texas Tech.

The Texas Tech men's basketball coach released a statement

Thursday saying he learned late Wednesday that Ohio State athletic director

Andy Geiger would not offer him the Buckeyes' vacant coaching job.

Geiger called Knight during the afternoon Thursday to inform him personally. Tech associate head coach Pat Knight and athletic director Gerald R. Myers told The Dallas Morning News.

Pat Knight said his father, Bob, intends to sign a three-year contract extension that binds him to the Red Raiders through May 2009.

"Last night (on Wednesday), a friend of mine from Columbus called me to say that the athletic director had decided not to discuss the vacancy with me," Knight said in the statement. "Therefore, there was no need for me to consider it. I greatly appreciate the concern and support shown to me by friends, fans, and alumni of Ohio State."

Thursday's events end the speculation that Bob Knight, 63, would leave Tech for his alma mater, where he was part of the 1960 national championship.

Geiger has not spoken publicly about any potential job candidate.

But Knight's name landed front and center after former coach Jim O'Brien was fired on June 8. Ohio State has not released a list of candidates.

Blue Jackets' Gallant appointed as head coach

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Gerard Gallant was appointed head coach of the Columbus Blue Jackets on Friday, nearly six months after he took over on an interim basis.

Gallant led Columbus to a 16-4-1 record, replacing Doug MacLean on Jan. 1. The Blue Jackets finished with the second-worst record in the Western Conference last year.

Defending IRL champ Dixon struggling

BY JASON BERGMAN
The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Scott Dixon had a dream season last year as a rookie in the Indy Racing League: He won three of his first seven events, led for 748 laps and finished as IRL champion.

This year has been another story. The 23-year-old New Zealander has led for only three laps coming into this weekend's SunTrust Indy Challenge at Richmond International Raceway, with his best result a runner-up finish in Phoenix.

"We've been a little up and down," Dixon said Thursday. "We've struggled a little and had some crashes... We've been trying our hardest. We haven't tried any less than what we have any other year."

At Richmond last year, Dixon put on a clinic in on-wheel racing, leading the entire way to capture the first wire-to-wire victory in IRL history. With two accidents in five starts this year, however, Dixon is only sixth in the points standings, trailing leader Tony Kanaan by 89 points.

Kanaan, a 29-year-old Brazilian, has been the dominant force so far, winning two events and placing second in two others to rack up 210 points, the best start in his IRL career. Kanaan also led at this stage last year before finishing a fifth at Richmond.

"There's a long way to go in the season, so we have to take it one race at a time," he said.

Anything can happen on Dixon's three-quarter-mile oval, the shortest on the

IRL circuit. The tight turns and high-banking walls cause numerous bunch-ups and crashes, with nine of 20 starters failing to finish in the series debut three years ago.

IRL also has been resurfaced, leading organizers to promise even higher speeds than the 168 mph Dixon posted in winning the pole last year. Racers say the track is the most physically demanding on the circuit because the 16-second laps require an immense amount of concentration and there are no long straightaways in which drivers can relax.

"It's like [being] on a piece of string that's being thrown around somebody's head," said driver Darren Manning. "You're pulling over five Gs in the corners... you think you're going to fly over the top of the grandstands coming out of the turns."

Road course promises a turn for the better for R. Gordon

BY MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. — Robby Gordon figured this was the perfect place to test his car — Infineon Raceway, site of Sunday's NASCAR race on road course in scenic wine-growing country.

Gordon dominated last year's Dodge/Save Mart 350 on the 1.99-mile, 10-turn circuit, then won in August at Watkins Glen.

"We are pretty confident we will have the road-course game dialed in, but there is always room for

improvement," Gordon said.

"Some people asked me why we were going out there to test, but it just made sense," he said.

"Practice makes perfect, right? Plus, we've got all year long turning left, and to get one of these 3,400-pound stock cars to turn right is completely different and it also just helped me get back into the shifting groove."

Gordon said his Richard Childress Racing team concentrated on gear boxes and transmissions while using one of his handful of of-

ficial NASCAR Nextel Cup tests.

Gordon led out the newly paved track that is expected to yield a qualifying record on Friday.

"We have a good baseline that we both races last year to fall back on," he said. "We are just trying to improve from that, and you always have to keep improving in this sport. The minute you let up, a bunch of them will pass you real quick because it is just that competitive."

A win at Infineon would be a big boost for Gordon and his No.

31 Chevrolet team. He goes into the race 20th in the Cup standings and, more important, 293 points out of 10th place and 666 behind series leader Jimmie Johnson.

With NASCAR's new "Chase for the Championship," the top 10 and any other drivers within 400 points of the leader after 26 races will get have the opportunity to race for the title over the final 10 events. Sunday's race will be the 16th of the season, so time is starting to work against Gordon.

The road courses present a big

opportunity for Gordon, who has been playing catch-up since crashing in the first two races.

"We've been trying to come back every weekend, and it always seems like when you get behind, you end up making more mistakes because you are trying so much harder," he said.

"Some of the other drivers currently ranked higher than us tend to struggle on road courses," he said. "So, if everything plays in our favor, we could be up to 50 points on some of those top guys right now."

Major League Baseball scoreboard

| American League | | | | |
|-------------------|----|------|--------|--|
| East Division | | | | |
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| New York Yankees | 45 | .633 | | |
| Boston Red Sox | 39 | .569 | 10 1/2 | |
| Tampa Bay Rays | 34 | .515 | 16 1/2 | |
| Baltimore Orioles | 29 | .429 | 21 1/2 | |

| Central Division | | | | |
|--------------------|----|------|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| Minnesota Twins | 50 | .727 | | |
| Chicago White Sox | 42 | .636 | 8 | |
| Cleveland Indians | 32 | .492 | 18 | |
| Detroit Tigers | 31 | .469 | 19 | |
| Kansas City Royals | 21 | .318 | 29 | |

| West Division | | | | |
|--------------------|----|------|--------|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| Seattle Mariners | 40 | .591 | | |
| Oakland Athletics | 39 | .581 | 1 1/2 | |
| Los Angeles Angels | 29 | .432 | 14 1/2 | |

| Thursday | | | | |
|----------------|---|-----|--|--|
| Tampa Bay Rays | | | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Saturday's interleague games | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----|--|--|
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Sunday's interleague games | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----|--|--|
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Thursday | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----|--|--|
| Devil Rays 19, Blue Jays 13 | | | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Friday | | | | |
|----------------|---|-----|--|--|
| Tampa Bay Rays | | | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Saturday | | | | |
|----------------|---|-----|--|--|
| Tampa Bay Rays | | | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Sunday | | | | |
|----------------|---|-----|--|--|
| Tampa Bay Rays | | | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Monday | | | | |
|----------------|---|-----|--|--|
| Tampa Bay Rays | | | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Tuesday | | | | |
|----------------|---|-----|--|--|
| Tampa Bay Rays | | | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Wednesday | | | | |
|----------------|---|-----|--|--|
| Tampa Bay Rays | | | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Minnesota | | | | |
|--------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Boston | | | | |
|--------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Chicago White Sox | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Cleveland Indians | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Detroit Tigers | | | | |
|----------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Kansas City Royals | | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Seattle Mariners | | | | |
|------------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Oakland Athletics | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Los Angeles Angels | | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Texas Rangers | | | | |
|---------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Arizona Diamondbacks | | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Colorado Rockies | | | | |
|------------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Pittsburgh Pirates | | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Tigers 12, Royals 3 | | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|--|--|
| at Detroit | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Detroit | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Detroit | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Detroit | W | 5-1 | | |

| Phillies 2, Expos 3 | | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|--|--|
| at Philadelphia | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Philadelphia | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Philadelphia | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Philadelphia | W | 5-1 | | |

| Astros 3, Pirates 2 | | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|--|--|
| at Houston | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Houston | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Houston | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Houston | W | 5-1 | | |

| Cardinals 4, Cubs 0 | | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|--|--|
| at St. Louis | W | 5-1 | | |
| at St. Louis | W | 5-1 | | |
| at St. Louis | W | 5-1 | | |
| at St. Louis | W | 5-1 | | |

| Braves 9, Marlins 4 | | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|--|--|
| at Atlanta | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Atlanta | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Atlanta | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Atlanta | W | 5-1 | | |

| Reds 6, Mets 2 | | | | |
|----------------|---|-----|--|--|
| at Cincinnati | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Cincinnati | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Cincinnati | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Cincinnati | W | 5-1 | | |

| Giants 9, Dodgers 3 | | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|--|--|
| at Los Angeles | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Los Angeles | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Los Angeles | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Los Angeles | W | 5-1 | | |

| NL leaders | | | | |
|--------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| AL leaders | | | | |
|--------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| NL leaders | | | | |
|--------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| NL leaders | | | | |
|--------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| NL leaders | | | | |
|--------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| NL leaders | | | | |
|--------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Los Angeles | | | | |
|--------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| San Francisco | | | | |
|---------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |

| Astros 3, Pirates 2 | | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|--|--|
| at Houston | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Houston | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Houston | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Houston | W | 5-1 | | |

| Cardinals 4, Cubs 0 | | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|--|--|
| at St. Louis | W | 5-1 | | |
| at St. Louis | W | 5-1 | | |
| at St. Louis | W | 5-1 | | |
| at St. Louis | W | 5-1 | | |

| Braves 9, Marlins 4 | | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|--|--|
| at Atlanta | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Atlanta | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Atlanta | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Atlanta | W | 5-1 | | |

| Reds 6, Mets 2 | | | | |
|----------------|---|-----|--|--|
| at Cincinnati | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Cincinnati | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Cincinnati | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Cincinnati | W | 5-1 | | |

| Giants 9, Dodgers 3 | | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|--|--|
| at Los Angeles | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Los Angeles | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Los Angeles | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Los Angeles | W | 5-1 | | |

| NL leaders | | | | |
|--------------|---|-----|----|--|
| | L | Pct | GB | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |
| at Tampa Bay | W | 5-1 | | |



While fans grapple for Randy Winn's foul ball, Texas left fielder Kevin Mench collides with the wall in a vain attempt to make a catch in the second inning of Thursday's game. Sixteen innings later, the Rangers beat the Seattle Mariners 9-7 to end the longest game of the season.

ong, l-o-n-g gone

Soriano's homer makes Texas an 18-inning winner

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — If Texas goes on to make the playoffs, the Rangers might look back at their 18-inning, 9-7 victory over Seattle as a key point in their season.

Alfonso Soriano finished off the longest major league game in more than a year on the 552nd pitch Thursday, hitting a two-run homer to end a contest that took 5 hours, 47 minutes — 43 minutes longer than the first two games of the series combined.

"It was important to win this game. It's an amazing win," said Soriano, who connected off Jamie Moyer (6-3).

Texas, which has won a season-high six straight, overcame a 5-1 deficit, tying it 7-7 on Mark Teixeira's RBI single in the ninth. The Rangers, who last made the playoffs in 1999, lead the AL West by one game over Oakland and 2½ games over Anaheim.

The teams played the longest major league game since St. Louis beat Florida 7-6 in 10 innings on April 27, 2003. It also matched the longest game in Rangers history.

"We're like that are a huge boost to the morale," said Brian Shouse (1-0), who got two outs for his first victory in 112 career games.

Devil Rays 19, Blue Jays 13: A day after his club-record 12-game winning streak ended, visiting Tampa Bay set team records for runs and hits (24) and won for the 16th time in 19 games.

Jose Cruz Jr., Carl Crawford and Geoff Blum homered for the Devil Rays, whose previous high was 15 runs. Julio Lugo went 5-for-7 to set a team record for hits and Tampa Bay tied a team mark with 11 walks.



Alfonso Soriano exults after his 18th-inning, game-winning homer against Seattle on Thursday.

John Halama (4-1) won despite allowing five runs and eight hits in five innings. Toronto's Ted Lilly (6-4) gave up six runs and nine hits in three-plus innings.

Tigers 12, Royals 3: Most Kansas City lost its final game with Carlos Beltran, who was traded to Houston later in the day as part of a three-way deal that sent three prospects to the Royals and reliever Octavio Dotel from the Astros to Oakland.

Ivan Rodriguez, hitting a league-leading .373, had three doubles, a single and four RBIs to help Detroit stop a five-game losing streak.

Nate Robertson (6-3) combined with two relievers on a four-hitter, allowing his fourth straight decision.



Beltran and Mike Sweeney hit solo homers. Chris George (1-1) allowed nine runs and 10 hits in three-plus innings.

Athletics 2, Angels 1: Mark Mulder (9-2) pitched a four-hitter for his major league-high fourth complete game.

Jermaine Dye hit a two-run homer for visiting Oakland.

Yankees 5, Orioles 2: Alex Rodriguez and Derek Jeter homered to back Javier Vazquez (8-5), who allowed two runs in the first inning and blanked the host Orioles over the next six.

Rodriguez hit a two-run shot in the third inning to tie the game and Jeter gave the Yankees the lead for good with a two-run drive off in the fifth off Sidney Ponson (3-10), who lost his seventh straight decision.

Mariano Rivera worked a perfect ninth for his 28th save in 29 chances.

Twins 4, Red Sox 3: Lew Ford hit a sacrifice fly following a two-base error by Nomar Garciaparra in the 10th. Leading off the inning, Garciaparra fielded Cristian Guzman's grounder up the middle and fired the ball into the Boston dugout.

Guzman took third on Jose Offerman's sacrifice, then scored on Ford's fly to left fielder Manny Ramirez.

White Sox 7, Indians 1: Jose Valentin hit a three-run homer in the first, and the host White Sox allowed three runs in the eighth in support of Jon Rauch (1-1).

Giants, Dodgers still don't play well together

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — No matter the season or the standings, certain things never change when the Giants play the Dodgers. The teams play harder, the losses sting a bit more — and there's often some sort of scuffle.

A.J. Pierzynski had two run-scoring doubles. Marquis Grissom homered and San Francisco completed a sweep of a four-game series by beating Los Angeles 9-3 on Thursday, the Giants' sixth straight win overall.

The game also included the second bench-clearing dustup in as many days between the archrivals. San Francisco's Michael Tucker and Dodgers closer Eric Gagne were ejected in the eighth inning for nearly starting a brawl after Tucker dived away from a high pitch by the NL Cy Young Award winner.

Gagne was incensed when he learned of his ejection, attempting to charge the umpires gathered at the mound. He flipped the ball over his shoulder toward the mound as he left the field, then defied his cap to San Francisco fans jeering him into the dugout.



Giants manager Felipe Alou, a former San Francisco star, has seen it all before.

"My feeling has been, ever since I was a player and there were fights with the Dodgers, there should never be a fight or a brawl without a reason," Alou said.

The Giants only had reason for celebration after taking a 2½-game lead over Los Angeles in the NL West with their 15th home victory in 16 games.

The trouble started when Gagne threw a high pitch that sent Tucker tumbling. Though the pitch appeared to be well over the plate, Tucker stepped toward the mound and pointed at Gagne, who advanced.

Gagne and Dodgers manager Jim Tracy both thought Tucker wildly overreacted, with Tracy calling it "highly theatrical." "I thought that that was completely overdone by Michael

Tucker," Tracy said. "If you look at the replay, the ball was not even close ... What's Eric Gagne supposed to do, stand there with his hands at his side?"

Tucker also was involved in Wednesday's scuffle, arising from a collision with Dodgers starter Jeff Weaver on a tag play at first base. Weaver and Tucker nearly came to blows, but there were no ejections.

"He knows it wasn't even close," Gagne said of his pitch. "If you look at the play, he just got carried away. He knew he tried to hurt our guy yesterday. He just got emotional."

Teammates intervened, and no punches were thrown — but umpires still ejected both players. Gagne was tossed because he removed his hat and glove while yelling at Tucker.

"You all can write what you want," Tucker said. "I don't care. I'm not talking about it."

Brett Tomko returned from the disabled list to pitch six innings of three-hit ball for his first victory since April 28. He got ample run support from the Giants, who

earned two blowout victories and two one-run victories over the Dodgers.

Hides Nomo (3-9) allowed nine hits and seven runs in losing his eighth straight decision for the Dodgers, who have dropped five of six since holding a 2½-game division lead Friday.

Braves 9, Marlins 4: Chipper Jones, J.D. Drew and Nick Green drove in two runs apiece as visiting Atlanta avoided being swept in a series for the first time this season.

Drew doubled twice and tripled as Atlanta snapped a three-game losing streak. The Braves roughed up Dontrelle Willis (6-5) and won for just the second time in eight games.

Mike Hampton (2-7) settled down after a shaky first inning and won for the first time in five starts.

Florida will put pitcher Josh Beckett on the disabled list Friday because of a strained back muscle.

Cardinals 4, Cubs 0: Chris Carpenter (8-2) threw eight innings and also had two hits and an RBI.

The NL Central leaders took two of three from their closest challenger and lead the division by three games.

Matt Clement (7-6) allowed four runs in six innings.

Reds 6, Mets 2: Mike Cameron lost Ken Griffey Jr.'s bases-loaded fly to center in the sun, allowing three runs to score in visiting Cincinnati's five-run seventh.

Cameron's error foiled a strong start by Tom Glavine (7-4), who leads the majors with a 2.11 ERA. Cory Lidle (5-5) allowed two runs in eight innings. Jose Reyes hit his first homer of the season for the Mets.

Expos 3, Phillies 1: At Montreal, Tony Armas Jr. (1-2) pitched six scoreless innings for his first victory in 14 months and Tony Batista hit a two-run homer off Eric Milton (0-2).

Rockies 3, Brewers 0: Mark Sweeney hit a two-run homer to help last-place Colorado win its second road series of the season. Aaron Cook (2-2) beat Ben Sheets (6-5) and Shawn Chacon got his 15th save.

Bonds incensed at Montgomery

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds avoided specifics Thursday when asked about the latest doping allegations against him, instead unleashing a flurry of expletives toward sprinter Tim Montgomery.

Montgomery reportedly told a grand jury that the man at the center of a Bay Area steroid scandal told him he supplied the San Francisco Giants slugger with performance-enhancing drugs.

"I ain't never met Tim Montgomery. I don't know Tim Montgomery. I've never seen the dude in my life," Bonds said before the Giants' 9-3 victory over Los Angeles on Thursday night. "I don't even know what the guy does."

According to a report Thursday in the San Francisco Chronicle, Montgomery testified last year that BALCO founder Victor Conte told him Bonds switched to an undetectable steroid in 2003 when baseball introduced its drug policy.

Asked if he feels betrayed by someone he doesn't know, Bonds said: "Betrayed by someone I've never met before? I didn't get betrayed. I don't even know who he is. So how he's making accusations of me I don't even know."

Conte's lawyer, Robert Holley, called Montgomery's accusations "absolutely untrue."

"Victor Conte has repeatedly said from the very beginning that he has never provided Barry Bonds with steroids, has never seen Barry Bonds take steroids or enhance any kind of performance-enhancing drugs," Holley said.

Holley said Conte never would have confided in Montgomery. He added that the sprinter split with Conte in 2001 and would have had no way to know what went on with Bonds in 2003.

The newspaper's report included direct quotes from Montgomery's testimony to the federal grand jury that investigated the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative. The Chronicle did not say how it obtained the information. "It's stupid. I didn't read the thing. I just heard about it," Bonds said during a session with reporters in front of his locker. The six-time NL MVP, who turns 40 next month, has repeatedly denied steroid use.

"It bothers me when people I don't even know are saying stuff about me," Bonds said. "Next time, if I know for sure so-and-so, they're going to talk to my lawyer from now on. I guarantee that. If any of them statements are true, they're going to talk to my attorney. I guarantee that — in a lawsuit. See you in court, brother."

Bonds is third on the career homer list with 676, trailing Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714). He set the season record of 73 in 2001.

Giants owner Peter Magowan isn't concerned about the latest report tarnishing the image of the Giants or Bonds, the pillar of the franchise.

"What I have said is I've never seen anybody who can block things out like Barry can," Magowan said, also referring to the death of Bonds' father, Bobby, last year. "As far as the rest of the team is concerned, they're all putting it to the side, which is to their credit. That's difficult to do."



Carlos Beltran hits a home run in his last game with Kansas City before being traded to the Houston Astros.

Astros stronger with Beltran

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

The Houston Astros saw an opportunity to add Carlos Beltran and refused to let it slip away — another sign they're going all out this year to try to win their first World Series.

Houston acquired the star center fielder from Kansas City on Thursday night in a three-way deal that also sent reliever Octavio Dotel to Oakland.

"When you have a chance to get an All-Star like Beltran, you do it. Then you worry about filling in holes," Astros General Manager Gerry Hunsicker said. "He significantly makes us better; he is an impact player."

The last-place Royals wound up with three prospects: highly touted third baseman Mark Texeira and right-hander Mike Wood from Oakland and catcher John Buck from the Astros.

Beltran can become a free agent this fall — but for now, he gives Houston one of the most talented players in baseball to go along with a hard-throwing rotation and an experienced lineup.

Houston spent \$36.5 million last offseason to sign pitchers Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte. Clemens, who already ended one brief retirement, agreed only to a one-year deal, while longtime stars Jeff Bagwell and Craig Biggio are nearing the end of their careers.

That means the pressure is on to win — this season.

The Astros, who have never even won a playoff series, are fourth in the NL Central, five games behind first-place St. Louis. Adding Beltran might make them the team to beat.

Last week, the Astros sent right fielder Richard Hidalgo to the New York Mets for reliever David Weathers and a minor league pitcher. This time, Houston pulled off a much bigger deal for the best prize on the trade market.

Beltran, the 1999 AL Rookie of the Year, is hitting .278 with 15 homers, 51 RBIs and 14 steals.

Beltran's arrival means yet another position change for Biggio, who started his career as a catcher, moved to second base and then center field. Biggio will probably move to left, with Lance Berkman shifting to right.

"There's not as much running out there, I know that," Biggio said. "We'll put our time in. We'll be OK. The ultimate goal is to try to win a championship here."

The 27-year-old Beltran is making \$9 million this season. He's represented by Scott Boras, who usually does not have his players re-sign before testing the free-agent market.

As part of the trade, the Astros received cash from Kansas City, an amount less than \$1 million.

Clemens' 10th caps Houston's big day

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — While Roger Clemens was winning yet another game, Houston General Manager Gerry Hunsicker was busy getting him more help.

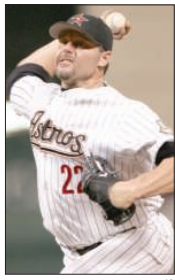
Clemens became the first 10-game winner in the majors, pitching Houston to a 3-2 victory Thursday over the Pittsburgh Pirates on a big night all around for the Astros.

During the game, Houston acquired star center fielder Carlos Beltran from Kansas City as part of a three-way trade that also sent closer Octavio Dotel from the Astros to Oakland.

"This is obviously huge for our organization," Hunsicker said. "Carlos Beltran is one of the most exciting, complete players in our game today."

"He's the prototype we've been looking for for a long time. He's going to be a very exciting force for us in the middle of our lineup."

The Royals wound up with three prospects: highly touted third baseman Mark Texeira and right-hander Mike Wood from Oakland, and catcher John Buck from the Astros.



Roger Clemens became baseball's first 10-game winner by beating Pittsburgh on Thursday. It was the 320th win of his career.

Beltran, who can become a free agent this fall, adds a talented player to a mix that already includes a hard-throwing rotation and an experienced lineup.

The Astros hope Beltran will join the team in time for Friday night's game at Texas.

"They're trying to give us that little extra edge," said Craig Biggio, who probably will shift from center field to left to make room for Beltran. "It's going to be fun."

Clemens (10-2) earned his 320th victory, moving within four of Nolan Ryan and Don Sutton for 12th place on the career list. The Rocket allowed two runs — one earned — and four hits in seven innings. He also had four strikeouts, giving him 4,200 for his career, second only to Ryan's 5,714.

"Those first nine wins weren't as easy as they looked to some people," Clemens said. "Tonight wasn't easy, either. It's a long road and sometimes you just try to stay the course."

Morgan Bengtson singled home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, and Brad Lidge got three outs for his third save.

The trade of Dotel leaves Lidge as the closer — for now. Asked if Houston might bring in an experienced relief ace, Hunsicker cracked a smile and said: "We'll see what tomorrow brings."

Pittsburgh has lost 15 of 18.

Messages of Support

Hello Redorsky! I just wanted to say Hello and be at your best always no matter what the tide brings. We're all praying and looking forward to seeing you safe and sound when this war is over. Don't worry about the baby. She's doing well and the way she looks I believe she's carrying a son. As for me, I'll find out what my child will be by next week. So, for now, be Brave and Be Well. God Bless you and everyone out there. Your sister, A. Rose

Hi my name is Heather. I just want to tell all of our troops overseas that are fighting for our country that everyone back home is really proud of them and can wait to get the back here in the United States. Thank you so much for all that all of you have done and are doing for our country and as a young 15 year old the troops are the ones who inspire me the most. Again, thank you so much for trying to make this world a safer place for everyone. Always and forever, Heather

My name is Nancy. I live in Maryland. Thank you, all of you, for your brave and courageous service. There is no bigger sacrifice than what you are doing for your country and your countrymen - and that includes me. I proudly stand behind you, pray for you, and bless you for your service - as does everyone I have spoken to. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! God Bless You! and God Bless America!

SPORTS



Cal State Fullerton reaches
finals for first time since
winning title in 1995, Page 28



Fountain of youth

Magic take Howard No. 1; Eight preps go in top 20

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Peach fuzz was more valued than razor stubble, and a high school diploma carried more weight than a college degree in the NBA Draft.

A leaguewide youth movement was the theme of the night Thursday, with eight high schoolers chosen in the first round — including the overall No. 1 pick, Dwight Howard of Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy.

The Orlando Magic decided to take Howard over Emeka Okafor, the junior who led Connecticut to the NCAA championship. Okafor is more mature and has a better résumé, but Howard has more promise.

At least that was the way the Magic saw it.

"When you have the first pick, your responsibility is to pick the best player," Magic General Manager John Weisbrod said. "Our guys had a lot of conviction that he was the best player."

That statement is certain to follow Weisbrod around for the next decade or so while the league watches the development of Howard, a baby-faced 18-year-old, and compares it to that of Okafor, who went second to the Charlotte Bobcats.

Okafor answered with sarcasm when asked about being passed over in favor of someone three years his junior: "It made me feel real special, all warm inside."

Howard became the third prep player in the past four years to be selected first overall, joining Kwame Brown and LeBron James. Seven more high schoolers were picked before Jameer Nelson, the college player of the year at Saint Joseph's, who dropped to the Denver Nuggets at No. 20 and was subsequently dealt to Orlando for a future No. 1 pick.



The Orlando Magic on Thursday night made Dwight Howard of Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy the third prep player in the past four years selected first overall in the NBA Draft. The 6-foot-11, 240-pound forward averaged 25 points, 18 rebounds and eight blocks per game his senior season. See draft list on Page 27.

SEE YOUTH ON PAGE 27

2



Charlotte

Emeka Okafor

Forward-Center

UConn



3



Chicago

Ben Gordon

Guard

UConn



4



L.A. Clippers

Shaun Livingston

Guard

Peoria (Ill.) Central H.S.



5

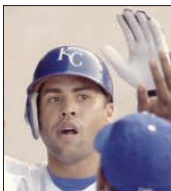


Washington

Devin Harris

Guard

Wisconsin (Traded to Dallas)



Astros acquire coveted outfielder Beltran in quest for Series title

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Soriano's homer in 18th brings merciful end to longest game of season

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Former champ Ivanisevic calls it a career after loss to Hewitt at Wimbledon

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